

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Navy sued over live-fire plans

Mathewson pleads guilty, gets 15 years in prison

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William Kapono Mathewson entered a guilty plea yesterday and was slapped with a 15-year prison term for stabbing Dr. Francois Claassens with a fishing spear in the neck at the doctor's house on Rota in April 2015.

Mathewson, 37, signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon and attempted assault with a dangerous weapon.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho accepted Mathewson's guilty plea and sentenced him to the maximum 15 years imprisonment as the plea deal recommended.

Camacho ordered the defendant to serve the prison term day for day without the possibility of parole, early release or work release.

Mathewson was given credit of one year and 114 days of time served.

Before he was sentenced, Mathewson read a prepared note. He apologized to the court, to the victim and his family, and to the people of Rota and the CNMI for the crimes he committed.

See MATHEWSON on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Dr. Francois Claassens, in an interview yesterday, said that William Mathewson, who stabbed him in the neck with a spear, had been building up resentment for an unknown reason. Mathewson pleaded guilty yesterday and was slapped with a 15-year imprisonment.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four environmental and cultural preservation groups filed yesterday a lawsuit in federal court against the U.S. Department of Navy, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, U.S. Department of Defense, and Defense Secretary Ashton Carter over the Navy's decision to station permanently thousands of U.S. Marines in Guam and to conduct live-fire training for those Marines on Tinian and Pagan.

The Tinian Women's Association, Guardians of Gani, PaganWatch, and Center for Biological Diversity, are suing the defendants for violation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Administrative Procedure Act (APA)—failure to consider relocation to Guam and associated

live-fire training in a Single Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), and failure to consider alternatives.

The complainants, through counsel Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare that the defendants have

See NAVY on Page 4

Rita Sablan to retire as Education commissioner

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan will be retiring after her contract ends next month, Aug. 19. In a letter addressed to Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, Sablan reiterated what she wrote in a letter earlier this year.

"This is to inform you that after consultation with my family, they have urged me to retire at the end of my second term which ends on August 19. This is to reaffirm my April 29 letter of my intent to retire at the end of my term," Sablan said in the letter obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.



Sablan

The former Garapan Elementary School principal also notified the board in 2012 that she would retire after her first term citing the same reasons, but BOE asked her to stay for another four years. She replaced David Borja who failed to complete his four-year term in 2009.

Sablan also apologized to the BOE for the timing of her letter since the Public School System is busy preparing for the coming school year. "But I'm confident that the key management and school leaders will be able to carry on the vision and mission of the school district in the years ahead."

See RITA on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

A group of Japanese students arrived on Saipan yesterday morning for their yearly cultural exchange program.

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NATION

On a night awash in history, Hillary Clinton triumphantly became the first woman to lead a major American political party toward the White House.

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WORLD

The Islamic State group crossed a new threshold Tuesday in its war against the West, as two of its followers targeted a church in Normandy.

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Local

Youngest CNMI delegate at DNC hopes to inspire

By JILLIAN L. ANGELINE
CORRESPONDENT

PHILADELPHIA—Mona Manglona is 19 years old, an undergraduate student at Philadelphia University. She's spending her week at the Wells Fargo Center, representing the Commonwealth with more than 10 other delegates. "It's just amazing to be here, I believe it's the first

time the CNMI has a voice as a delegation, so it's very surreal," she tells *Saipan Tribune* Monday evening in the midst of thousands of delegates from around the nation.

On Tuesday, she and the Northern Marianas delegation made history during the roll call vote, a first for the Islands. Manglona could be seen on live TV standing in front of the CNMI Democratic

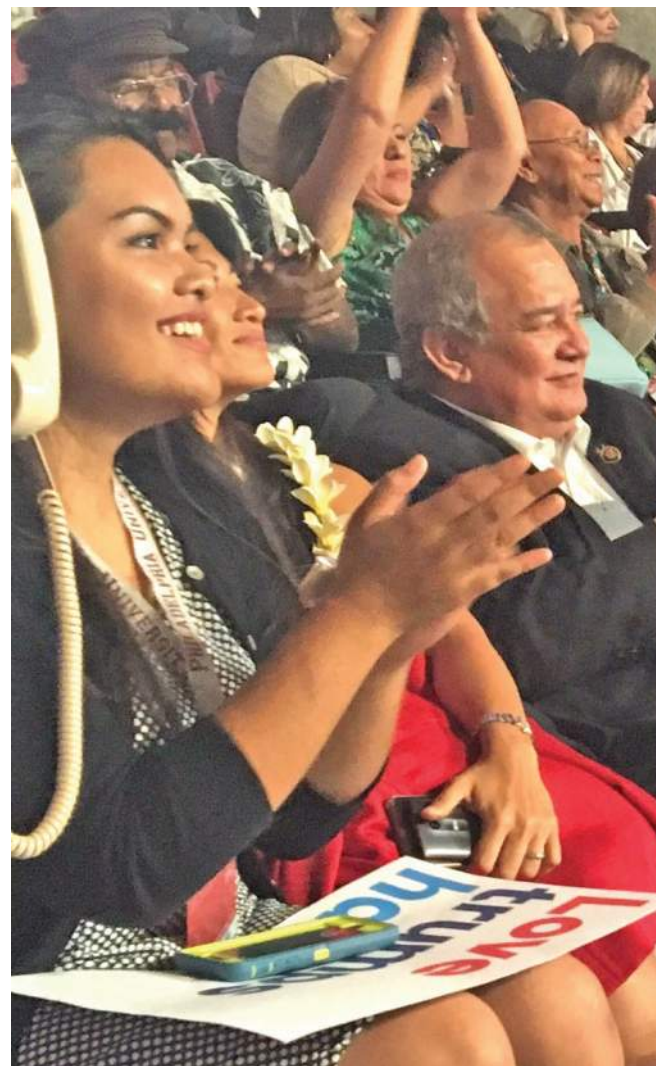
Party chairwoman Janet King as King announced nine votes for Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and two for Bernie Sanders.

As the youngest official member of the CNMI delegation, Manglona says it's important for youth to get involved in the political process and she wants to help give them a voice. "I feel that a lot of people my age are interest-

ed in politics but that's all it is. It's usually just a hashtag and it ends there."

Manglona credits her dad for inspiring her. She says he hosted one of the first caucuses ever for the island of Rota.

She got in touch with DNC chairwoman Janet King to see what she could do to get involved and that's how she landed a spot with the CNMI group in Phila-



JILLIAN L. ANGELINE

The youngest official member of the CNMI delegation, Mona Manglona, cheers on the speakers on the first of four days of the Democratic National Convention. At her left are CNMI Democratic Party chairwoman Janet King (partly hidden) and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

delphia this week.

CNMI delegate Nola Hix is also supporting a push to get more young adults politically active in the Commonwealth. On Tuesday evening, Hix posted to social media "A proud moment for us tonight as we understand that in order for our voices to be heard we need to #participate." She's excited to get more young residents involved in the CNMI Democratic Party after the Convention concludes.

Manglona tells *Saipan Tribune* she wants to inspire the youth "and let them know you can be 19 years old and be here at the Democratic Convention or the RNC for that matter. So, that's what's motivating me to be here, represent Hillary Clinton and her views and hope we can get America to be at a better place again."

The youngest member of the delegation is receiving a good response for her participation, she tells *Saipan Tribune*. "I've been getting a lot of positive feedback from everyone. I've been posting it on social media. I've been getting a lot of positive feedback from people my age, people even younger surprised that I'm here," explains Manglona, adding in the discussion it's important to educate young adults who will lead in the future.

And Manglona will not be leaving her knowledge in Pennsylvania. She is looking forward to returning to the CNMI with her experiences.

"Politics is in my blood. I come from a political family and it's definitely the dream to go back home, take everything I learned out here and make a difference back home."

45 slots for AmeriCorps Program up for grabs

The CNMI-PSS AmeriCorps Program is encouraging eligible high school students who are interested in making a difference in the lives of others to submit an online application to become an AmeriCorps Student Member Tutor.

There are only 45 member

slots for the upcoming School Year 2016-2017. Applications must be submitted online no later than Aug. 31, 2016, or until all slots are filled. The selection criteria and online application instructions can be obtained on the PSS AmeriCorps website at <https://goo.gl/2nbbN3>. (PR)

WIC is celebrating World Breastfeeding Week in August!

This year's theme "Breastfeeding: A key to Sustainable Development" is about how breastfeeding is a key element in getting us to think about how to value our wellbeing from the start of life, how to respect each other and care for the world we share.

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By JILLIAN L. ANGELINE
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Tribune has learned through multiple sources that top Commonwealth Utilities Corp. management officials forcibly opened CUC chief engineer John Riegel's office Wednesday.

Sources said his computer and hard drive were some of the items taken out of his office and a locksmith was used to get into his office.

Former CUC chief financial officer Matt Yaquinto told *Saipan Tribune* there appears to be a clear pattern at the utilities company.

"First [former CUC executive director] Alan Fletcher, then [public information offi-

Sources: CUC chief engineer's office forcibly opened

cer] Brad Ruszala, then Matthew Yaquinto, and now John Riegel. All SO (stipulated order) positions, except for Brad Ruszala, but Brad also had a very important position as evidenced by this past weekend and over the past several months. The residents of the CNMI are suffering as they are not getting information. [CUC executive director] Gary Camacho said 'he could handle' the PIO duties, but this is clearly not the case," he says in an email sent to *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday.

Yaquinto calls the alleged "raid" a breach of Riegel's contract. Riegel, the head of

the water and wastewater division, is on leave until later this week, *Saipan Tribune* has gathered. The former CFO tells us Camacho approved Riegel's leave based on the amended contract. "They tried to force him to renegotiate another contract, but the terms were clearly not in his favor and the goal was go get rid of him at any time," according to Yaquinto.

Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan) has been informed of the situation Wednesday by multiple sources and says he is very concerned.

"If this turns out to be true,

I'm urging the House to convene and do an oversight of CUC," he explains during a phone interview. Propst says an emergency session with lawmakers may be needed.

» Computer, hard drive taken from Riegel's office

The representative fears the reality of a federally appointed receivership of CUC "if we continue to fire key position in the SO under EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)." The representative told *Saipan Tribune* he believes the CNMI locally should be able to handle its utilities if it has a board of directors focusing on

policy "and we have the qualified management and personnel to do the jobs."

A request for comment from CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho about the Wednesday raid has gone unanswered as of press time.

Just a couple weeks ago, CUC filed a lawsuit against Riegel over the amendment of his contract, which would extend the term of his contract, increase his annual salary, and eliminate the termination for cause clause.

CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok says it was wholly within the discretion of CUC as to whether an offer to renew the contract should be made to Riegel. Further, Sirok said, CUC did not have the obliga-

tion to provide Riegel with advanced notice of termination of employment upon completion of the term of the contract.

Riegel has not been served yet as of news time Wednesday, *Saipan Tribune* has learned.

Earlier this month, CUC announced its intent to not honor the terms of the chief engineer's contract's amendment at a board meeting.

The chief engineer received a correspondence the day before his leave started, informing him his last day was July 15. But Riegel told *Saipan Tribune* he believes his contract is still valid and in effect until July of 2018. Riegel said CUC says he is on leave, which technically means he is still employed with the utilities company.



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MATHEWSON

From Page 1

The defendant said he is taking responsibility of his crimes.

"I'm glad that he's alive today," said Mathewson, referring to the 62-year-old Claassens.

Mathewson said he is hoping that one day both their families will cope with this tragedy.

Camacho allowed Claassens to speak before the change of plea proceeding commenced.

Claassens thanked his wife Vangie, for bringing the family together and supporting him throughout his ordeal.

"You've been with me throughout this time," he said.

For his 13-year-old son, Claassens said he is very proud of him because he immediately called the police

and the ambulance.

"You saved your Dad's life," the doctor said to his son, who attended the hearing along with his mother and three siblings.

Claassens thanked the people of Rota for taking care of him after his injury.

"The people of Rota are good people. They treat people with respect. This person [Mathewson] is not fit to be in our community," the doctor said.

Claassens said he was informed about the terms of the plea agreement and that he is satisfied with it.

He said he just want his son to be spared from additional trauma with another interrogation if the case proceeds to trial.

Claassens said it is important that Mathewson will be removed from the society for a long time.

"I hope as a family we can

move on," the doctor told the media after the hearing.

Claassens said he is very assured that the community of Rota is free from this "dangerous person."

"The people of Rota are gentle, and they treat each other with respect. And they take care of their children. This person is not one of us," he said.

The doctor said the injuries affected his balance and severely affected his hearing.

"I am glad that I able to work again and I can provide medical service to the community," said Claassens, who returned back to Rota Commonwealth Health Center four months ago. He has been working at Rota Health Center for the past 10 years.

Asked about the motive of the attack, Claassens said Mathewson had been building up resentment for an unknown reason over some

time and that he does not know why.

"I totally don't know why," he said.

Before the incident, Claassens said he was Mathewson's treating physician for his psychiatric problems.

Claassens said he was treating Mathewson under the direction from a psychiatrist from the Commonwealth Health Center.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, counsel for the government, said Claassens wants closure of this case for him and his family and closure for his son.

In an interview, Hinds said if they would've gone to trial on the attempted murder, the maximum sentence would have been 20 years.

"So I think that in light of everything...like the doctor wanting to spare his son from the trial and everything that has been going on. The

15 years is a fair deal," the prosecutor said.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on April 4, 2015 on Rota, Mathewson attempted to strike Claassens with a metal pot. He then caused serious bodily injury when he stabbed/drove a spear through the neck of Claassens.

The Office of the Attorney General recently requested the court to dismiss the attempted murder in the first degree and other charges—aggravated assault and battery, and two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

OAG requested the court to instead file Mathewson with two charges—assault with a dangerous weapon and attempted assault with a dangerous weapon. Camacho granted the government's request.

The jury trial was sup-

posed to commence on Rota on Oct. 11, 2016.

Mathewson, a farmer/fisherman, stabbed the then-60-year-old Claassens in the neck with a fishing spear and clubbed him on the head with a big pot and chain, police said.

The brutal attack happened in the backyard of the doctor's house in Teneto Village on Rota on April 4, 2015. Mathewson's house is located near the doctor's residence.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato had earlier disclosed that his client, Mathewson, will rely upon the defense of insanity at the time when he committed the alleged crimes.

Sato informed the court yesterday that according to the mental evaluation of Dr. Martin Blinder, the defendant is competent to proceed with the trial.

RITA

From Page 1

She added she enjoyed the eight years of serving the CNMI as commissioner of Education. "I'm hopeful that the school district's progress over the last eight years will continue to make an impact as we prepare our students to be college and career ready, and

to be successful in their lives."

Sablan was even the recipient of the Peter Brice Award given in the closing banquet of the 40th Annual Pacific Circle Consortium on July 7, 2016, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Her retirement also comes in an election year with BOE's three members up for re-election—Marylou Ada and Janice Tenorio on Saipan and De-

nise Tanya R. King for Rota. Herman Manglona Atalig (Rota) and Andrew Lujan Orsini (Saipan) have already filed their respective BOE candidacies at the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Saipan Tribune tried to get BOE chair Guerrero's comments but has yet to get comments as of this writing. He said, in a previous interview, that the commissioner's con-

tract is still under evaluation. A BOE meeting is scheduled on Aug. 1, Monday.

Tanapag Middle School Parent-Teacher-Student Association president Kodep Ogomoro, who during a special board meeting last July 7 questioned the board's transparency in evaluating Sablan, said, "My comment then is with the transparency of the proceedings and not directly

to the commissioner."

"It is addressed to the board in general since it affects the operations of PSS. If that's the case (Sablan's retirement), I wish the commissioner the best of luck and enjoy every minute of spending more time with her family," Ogomoro told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added transparency in general could help address the problems at PSS and

BOE. "Nothing that I've said and done was against commissioner Sablan. All I've done was for the interest of the kids and employees, and transparency."

"Transparency, that must be the way how every system works. We must know what's happening since this is a system where our kids are in," added the BOE parent advisory council member.

NAVY

From Page 1

violated and are violating the NEPA and APA by adopting and relying on the legally deficient Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and SEIS to issue records of decision regarding the relocation of Marines from Okinawa to the Mariana Islands.

The plaintiffs requested the court to vacate and set aside the 2010 and 2015 records of decision regarding the relocation of Marines from Okinawa to the Mariana Islands.

The plaintiffs demanded payment for court costs and attorney's fees.

Cinta M. Kaipat of Pagan-Watch stated that she spent many happy years of her childhood growing up on Pagan and that close family members were there when the volcano erupted in 1981 and were forced to flee.

"Many of us want to return and resettle Pagan. For those who lived there, Pagan remains their homeland. We do not want to see it obliterated by the military," said Kaipat in a press release.

Tinian Women's Association's Florine Hofschneider stated that when the Northern Marianas agreed to remain

part of the U.S., destroying the northern two-thirds of Tinian with live-fire training and bombing was never part of the deal.

"We refuse to accept the Navy's plan to subject our children to nearly constant bombardment," Hofschneider said in a press statement.

Earthjustice attorney David Henkin stated that the Navy's decision would have devastating consequences for the people of Tinian and Pagan.

Henkin said NEPA requires the Navy to take a hard look at all of the impacts associated with relocating 5,000 Marines to Guam and to look at alternative ways to accomplish its goals before making such a decision.

"The Navy blatantly violated those mandatory legal duties when it decided to station Marines on Guam without any consideration of the destruction from live-fire training the Navy claims those Marines will need or of other places those Marines could be trained with far fewer impacts," Henkin said in a press statement.

King-Hinds stated in the complaint that in July 2010, the Navy issued a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the relocation of approximately

8,600 Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

The relocation was proposed to implement an agreement the U.S. and Japan reached in 2006 to reduce the number of Marines permanently stationed on Okinawa.

King-Hinds said despite numerous public comments urging the Navy to examine alternate locations for the stationing of Marines relocated from Okinawa, the Navy refused to do so.

King-Hinds said in its FEIS, the Navy claimed that Guam was the only location for the realignment of these forces that could satisfy the U.S.' national security needs and treaty obligations.

King-Hinds said FEIS concluded that Guam could not accommodate all required live-fire training ranges, and, accordingly, the Navy looked outside Guam for locations to build and operate live-fire ranges.

The lawyer said despite numerous public comments urging the Navy to analyze locations outside the Mariana Islands to build and operate live-fire ranges for the relocated Marines, the Navy refused to do so.

The FEIS stated that the relocated Marines would need the following live-fire ranges

on Tinian: a rifle known distance range, an automated combat pistol/military police firearms qualification course, a platoon battle course, and a field firing range.

King-Hinds said the FEIS noted that proposed training would not use heavy machine guns, mortars, artillery, rockets or missiles.

On Sept. 20, 2010, the Navy issued its record of decision based on the FEIS. In the 2010 record of decision, the Navy decided to relocate the approximately 8,600 Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to build and operate the live-fire ranges on Tinian described in the FEIS.

In 2012, U.S. and Japan modified their 2006 agreement on reducing the number of Marines stationed on Okinawa.

Under the revised agreement, approximately 9,000 Marines would leave Okinawa, but only approximately 5,000 would be relocated to Guam.

After the 2010 record of decision issuance, King-Hinds said, the Navy reassessed the live-fire training required for Marines to be relocated to Guam to carry out their mission, concluding that the live-fire training analyzed in the FEIS and selected in the 2010 record of deci-

sion would not be adequate.

Instead, King-Hinds said, the Navy concluded that substantially more intense and destructive live-fire training was necessary, requiring the use of artillery, mortars, rockets, amphibious assaults, attack helicopters and warplanes, and ship-to-shore naval bombardment.

The lawyer said the Navy further concluded that this ramped-up training could not be conducted on Tinian alone, but rather that live-fire ranges would have to be constructed and operated on both Tinian and Pagan.

King-Hinds said the live-fire training on Tinian that the Navy now deems necessary for Marines to be stationed on Guam includes, but is not limited to, a high hazard impact area where high explosives from ground-based and aviation training activities would be employed.

King-Hinds said that on Pagan, which the 2010 FEIS concluded was neither needed nor suitable for training Marines to be stationed on Guam, the Navy now contends it must establish a high hazard impact area centered on Mount Pagan to support ground-based, air-to-ground and ship-to-shore live-fire training.

On Aug. 28, 2015, the

Navy issued its record of decision based on the SEI 2015.

King-Hinds said the 2015 record of decision reaffirmed the Navy's 2010 decision to relocate Marines from Okinawa to the Mariana Islands, despite the lack of any final NEPA analysis of the live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan the Navy deems necessary for those Marines to conduct their mission or any consideration of stationing and/or training locations outside the Mariana Islands.

King-Hinds argued that defendants violated NEPA by failing to consider within a single EIS the overall cumulative impacts of relocating Marines to Guam and the live-fire range construction and operations on Tinian and Pagan the Navy has concluded are necessary to train Guam-based Marines to carry out their mission.

King-Hinds said the Navy's reliance on the legally deficient FEI and SEIS to issue its records of decision to proceed with the relocation of Marines from Okinawa to the Mariana Islands "was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, not in accordance with law, and/or without observance of procedure required by law within the meaning of the APA."

1 more independent candidate files candidacy for House seat

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three more persons have filed their candidacies for the Nov. 8 general elections. The Commonwealth Election Commission started accepting submission of nominating petitions and candidacy last July 11.

Anthony Indalecio Duenas, Herman Manglona Atalig, and Andrew Lujan Orsini filed their candidacies before the election commission last week and early this week.

Election commission acting executive director Julita Villagomez disclosed yesterday that Duenas is running as

an independent for a House of Representatives Precinct 1 seat.

Precinct 1 covers San Antonio, San Vicente, and Koblerville.

» **2 also file for BOE seats**
» **Election commission staff to visit Tinian, Rota to accept nominating petitions, candidacies**

Villagomez said Atalig filed his candidacy for the Board of Education Rota position, while Commonwealth Utilities Corp. human resources manager Orsini filed his candidacy for the BOE Saipan position.

Villagomez said for the BOE positions, there are two seats that would be contested for the November polls—one each for Saipan and Rota.

Former lawmaker Antonio Muna Camacho was the first

to file his candidacy. He is running as an independent for a House of Representatives Precinct 5 seat.

Precinct 5 covers Kagman, Papago, As Terlaje, and part of San Vicente.

Camacho used to serve as a House representative.

Villagomez said the deadline to file nominations and candidacy is Aug. 10.

She said election commissioners have to meet to certify the candidates.

Meanwhile, Villagomez disclosed that election commission staff will be going to

Tinian and Rota to accept candidates' petitions and nominations on Aug. 9 and 10.

"We're doing this so they don't have to come here," Villagomez said.

Villagomez said the CEC

Labor helping youth find summer employment

The CNMI Department of Labor Work Investment Agency Division is busy certifying summer youth employment and training applications.

Close to 200 CNMI youths will be working for this year's 2016 Workforce Inno-

vation and Opportunity Act summer youth program. Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services in partnership with the CNMI Department of Labor WIA Division will also be leveraging their federal youth re-

There are 35 seats up for

grabs in the coming Nov. 8 general elections.

Villagomez said it used to be called mid-term elections, but the election commission now calls it general elections.

sources again for this year's program. The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog is proud to see its CNMI youths gaining work experience and remains committed in investing in the CNMI's youth programs. (PR)

JP Memorial Walk Glow Run & Health Fair this Saturday

Tan Holdings is holding its annual JP Walk this coming Saturday, July 30. The event, dubbed JP Memorial Walk Glow Run & Health Fair, celebrates the life of John Pangelinan, the former publisher of *Saipan Tribune*.

This year's theme is "Glowing for a Cure" and keeping with the theme, organizers will be giving away a glow bracelet and an event T-shirt for the first 500 paid registrants. Registration is \$10 per person.

Organizers will also be selling glow accessories like bracelets, aviator glasses, necklaces, light up bear, among others.

In the past, the JP Walk was exclusive only for *Saipan Tribune* staff, Tan Holdings employees, and Pangelinan's family. However, this year organizers are expanding it to the community, not only to honor Pangelinan but also to promote awareness against cancer and to promote a healthier lifestyle.

The JP Memorial Walk Glow Run & Health Fair will start at 5pm and will kick off with an opening speech from the Commonwealth Cancer

Association's Juan L. Babauta. It will be followed by a warm-up activity.

Like previous years, the JP Walk's route will start from the Garapan Fishing Base and finish at the Saipan Beach Hotel for those who sign up for the 3-kilometer route; and the Quartermaster Road intersection for 5K sign-ups.

There will also be raffle after the run. Prizes at stake are a round-trip ticket to the Philippines or gift cards from Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Century Hotel, D&Q, Cosmos Distributors, Let's Go Tour Company, and Shirley's Coffee Shop. Raffle tickets are \$5 apiece.

All the funds raised from the event will be given to the 2017 Marianas March Against Cancer in behalf of Tan Holdings.

Pangelinan was born on Oct. 26, 1937 and died on Feb. 5, 2008 after a long and brave battle against cancer.

For more information about this event, please go to the second floor of the JP Center Bldg, Beach Road, Garapan and look for Eunice Angeles or call (670) 235-0561. (Mackenzie Perez)

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- installs, configures and implements operating system software, telecom applications and integrated systems
- modifies operating systems, performs analysis, database maintenance and management, security administration, and manages data storage
- Supervises assigned Systems Administrators

Minimum Qualification Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science (or related field) or equivalent experience
Work Experience: Five or more years of progressively responsible experience in administration of data communication networks in LAN and WAN, Operating systems (Wintel/Linux), network, systems security, Vmware/Hyper-V virtualization based infrastructure and applications
Certification: CompTIA A+, Network+, Server+, Microsoft Certifications

Special Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:
Knowledge of:

- a. Telecommunications standards and practices
- b. Computer systems, computer hardware and software applications.
- c. LAN/WAN architecture
- d. Advanced knowledge of Windows Server (2003/2008 R2/2012 R2) Hyper-V/desktop Operating Systems (XP,7,8,10)
- e. Administering Microsoft Exchange 2007/2010
- f. Managing VMWare Infrastructure (Vmotion, DRS, Storage Vmotion and VM Clustering)
- g. Data administration, database application programs, networking concepts, enterprise storages appliances such as ISCSI/FCoE SAN, DAS and NAS.
- h. Call control platform and Prepaid Mobile, SMS and MMS environment
- i. Operating systems and application migration

Accountant

Job Duties:

- provides accurate and timely analysis, summarization, and reporting of accounting activities to internal and external sources, in compliance with established IT&E guidelines, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and Regulatory requirements;
- assists the Accounts Payable Coordinator, the Senior Accountant (Capital Accounts) and other senior accountants, as assigned
- processes payroll and related reports, filings and disbursements; reviews the submitted time sheets for proper account distribution and accuracy
- performs the accounts payable function; inputs and maintains information in the vendor master file
- works under the general supervision of the Accounting Operations Supervisor

Minimum Qualification Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in accounting, finance or related field.
Work Experience: Two years of progressive professional-level accounting experience

Special Knowledge:

- a. GAAP, GAAS, CFR 47, Part 32, and PTI Finance/Accounting practices
- b. Technical and working understanding of JD Edwards accounting and report writer software, the ABRA Suite Payroll System, the IBM AS400 and TFS Billing Systems

Work Location: Susupe, Saipan
Contact Information: Email resume to HRSaipan@itehq.net

Bill to fund As Falpi’s booster pump awaits Torres’ OK

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill appropriating \$256,241 to fund a booster pump to finally give residents in As Falipe in Garapan access to water is in Gov. Ralph DLG Torres’ desk waiting for his approval.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation recently passed House Local Bill 19-43 and House Local Bill 19-30 to address As Falipe’s residents’ 20-year water shortage problem.

Reps. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind.-Saipan) and Felicidad T. Ogumoro (R-Saipan) separately introduced HLB 19-43 and HLB 19-30 last year. HLB

19-43 appropriates \$150,000 for the project, while another \$106,241 is reserved from HLB 19-30.

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) said he is hoping that Torres would finally sign both local bills after they had already sent it to his office for review. He added that HLBs 19-43 and 19-30 are part of the government’s effort of finding a permanent solution to the water problem.

“Although there are other areas on Saipan that are in need of water access, the effort within the bill is a response to families [living] in As Falpi who suffered for more than 20 years without

water,” said Igisomar.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. told Igisomar that the reason behind the problem in As Falpi is that the water reservoir servicing the said area is lower than the homes of the families living there. CUC, which is plagued by problems, lacks the funds to complete the project.

“[It is] an unfortunate reasoning considering water is a basic necessity and every household must have access,” said Igisomar, the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications chair.

He said that Saipan Mayor or David M. Apatang has

continued to delve water to people without access to the basic service. “The sooner we get everyone online directly to CUC, the sooner our mayor can focus his funds on other matters.”

“As Falpi residents cannot continue to suffer without water. Suffering for more than 20 years is far too long and unfathomable considering everyone else around the immediate vicinity has access to water,” added Igisomar.

Igisomar said the Legislature’s next agenda is to help solve the water crisis experienced by those living up in Mt. Tapochau. “The next funding that we will explore

and fully support will be for the families up on the Mt. Tapochau Road area who are facing the same dilemma.”

All nine members of the Senate also signed Senate Resolution 19-48, requiring CUC and the Department of Public Works to transmit plans to the SNILD for the proper disbursement of the Developer Infrastructure Tax.

“I hope this will provide CUC and DPW the opportunity to re-align the priorities and get proper funding to accommodate the intention of Public Law 8-23 and lessen the stress or economic expansion opportunity cost burdened by our CNMI residents.”

First batch of Japanese students arrive for cultural exchange



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, seventh from right, and a few of his staff pose with members of the Japan Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai group and their chaperone during their visit at the Saipan Mayor’s Office yesterday.

A group of Japanese students arrived on Saipan yesterday morning for their yearly cultural exchange program.

This is the 37th time the Japan Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai group has visited Saipan. Most of the students are first-timers on island and they expect to learn more about the island’s history and way of life.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and his executive assistant Yuki Kishimoto met with the students at the Saipan Mayor’s Office yesterday with their chaperone Ai Okubo.

Shortly after the meeting with the mayor, two of the students, Riko Nagasawa and Yui Sato, gave Apatang gifts as a thank you to welcoming them to the island.

According to Okubo, they learned about Saipan from the

students that have been here before and from history books. “We expect to deepen our mutual understanding through knowing more about this island,” said Okubo

Second-timer Kouta Segishima said that he enjoyed his stay last year and that’s why he decided to come back again.

For the past 30 years students from the KSKK and Sanpo-En Winter Cultural Students Exchange Program have been visiting Saipan. They visit the island yearly in the summer and winter. In exchange, selected students from Saipan get to explore Japan.

”We are so grateful for this project in cooperation with Saipan, we are looking forward to this stay, thank you,” said Okubo. *(Mackenzie Perez)*

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Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 11, 2016
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd FL., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 07/07/16 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2016-2505: Marianas Behavioral Health International Inc. is proposing to operate a drug & alcohol rehabilitation center. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on Lot TR.22507-29, along Haiguas Lane in As Perdido. This area is zoned as Rural.

Conditional Use Application #2016-2665: Forson Holding (CNMI) LLC is proposing to renovate and utilize six (06) existing buildings for employee quarters with staff amenities. The applicant also proposes to fabricate and process building components in another existing warehouse. These uses are classified as "Institutional Residential" and "Manufacturing/Processing" respectively and are permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located in Tanapag on Lot 030 B 21. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Conditional Use Application #2016-2703 (Amendment): Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club is requesting to amend its Conditional Use Permit #2013-0270 and approved site development plan to reflect changes in parking layout, building design, and height. This proposal is located on Lots 008 H 29, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37 & 012 H 20. This area is located north of the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel and east of Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa. These areas are zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Communications

D. Old Business

E. New Business

1. Office Operations Reports (Permits, Enforcement)
2. Proposed amendments to Zoning districts

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Tinian store owner sanctioned for failing to post JVAs on website

The Department of Labor Administrative Hearing Office has sanctioned a store owner on Tinian for violating Labor regulations regarding employers' obligation to file quarterly total workforce listings and failure to post job vacancy announcements on Labor's website.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody sanctioned Lucky Qiang Corp., owner of Lucky Qiang Market, to pay \$1,500 for its conduct.

Cody, however, ordered that the \$750 of the fine shall be suspended for a period of two years, then extinguished, provided that Lucky Qiang Corp. complies with the terms of this order and commits no further violations of CNMI Labor law in that period.

Cody ordered the employer to pay the \$750 within 45 days of this order.

Lucky Qiang was ordered to post all job vacancies and job renewals in the future on Labor's website.

Cody required the employer to interview and consider for hiring any referrals of U.S. citizens or permanent residents when they are qualified and available to work.

The Department of Labor Enforcement Section de-

termined that Lucky Qiang Corp., owner of Lucky Qiang Market on Tinian, failed to comply with several Labor regulations.

First, Lucky Qiang failed to produce documents in response to a written document request served by Labor Enforcement Section within the deadline specified in the request.

Second, Lucky Qiang failed to produce a total workforce listing document required by regulation to be filed each quarter.

Third, Lucky Qiang failed to post two job vacancy announcements on the Labor website, in violation of CNMI rules and regulations.

In an order issued last week, hearing officer Cody said as to the charge that Lucky Qiang was late in producing documents in response to Labor enforcement's request, he finds no violation.

Cody said the facts establish that Lucky Qiang's general manager attempted to compile the documents but was hampered by the absence of its accountant.

Cody said Lucky Qiang re-

mained in contact with Labor enforcement and, as soon as the accountant arrived on Tinian, the employer promptly produced the requested documents.

The hearing officer said Lucky Qiang's late production of documents should be excused and no sanctions should be assessed against the employer for this charge.

On total workforce listing issue, Cody said Lucky Qiang failed to comply with the regulation and should be given a suspended sanction for this conduct.

On job vacancy announcement issue, Cody said Lucky Qiang violated Labor regulations by failing to post job renewals on Labor's website for those positions filled by two CW-1 workers.

Cody said this failure occurred not only with respect to job renewals in 2016, but also the renewals applied for in 2014 and 2015.

The general manager said he relied on advice from their accountant to use radio advertising rather than post JVAs on Labor's website. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

» Labor also sanctions Lucky Qiang Market for other violations



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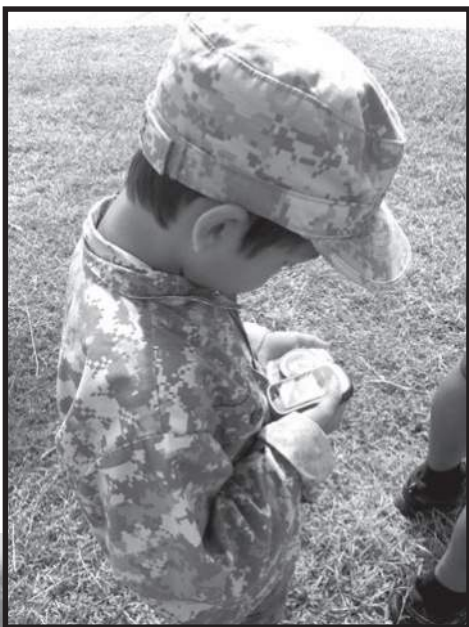
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CONTRIBUTED
PHOTOS

A participant of the Pacific Historic Parks and American Memorial Park's "Soldier Skills" summer program prepares for geocaching activity.



Youth participate in summer program at AMP

On July 8-9 and 15-16, 49 students between the ages of 8 and 17 participated in the first ever "Soldier Skills" summer program held at American Memorial Park.

This program, co-hosted by non-profit partner Pacific Historic Parks and the National Park Service, engaged Saipan youth in learning about the mission of their park through fun activities over the two day camp. Highlights included a guided tour of the museum and me-

morials, as well as, orienteering with compasses and GPS devices.

The program was coordinated by Jovannalyn Mafnas. Mafnas is a second grade teacher at Oleai Elementary School who spent the summer working at the park through the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program.

The Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program was made possible through a partnership with the National Park Service and the University of Colorado Denver.

The program brings teachers into national parks to learn about these special places while also bringing to the parks their classroom expertise. This was the first year American Memorial Park and Pacific Historic Parks participated in this national program.

To learn more about these programs or other happenings at the park, contact Ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (PR)



Participants of the "Soldier Skills" summer program receive certificates of completion from Pacific Historic Parks and American Memorial Park.

Ka'anani'au hosts free workshop on Aug. 9-11

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA), through its Pacific Region Training and Technical Assistance provider in Hawaii, Ka'anani'au, is once again offering a free workshop to help participants plan and develop community-based projects. The three-day workshop will be conducted at Northern Marianas College from Aug. 9 to 11, 2016, 8:30am-4pm, in Room N-5. Residents of

Rota and Tinian can participate by attending the video teleconference sessions at the NMC Rota and Tinian campuses on the same dates and time.

Participants will learn

how to:

- Work with community and key partners to identify and document specific problems that stand in the way of meeting community goals

- Create a project work plan to address those problems and attain community goals

- Develop measurable outcomes and impacts to the community

- Determine the level of resources and funding needed to implement the project

Although you may come as a walk-in on the first day, to prepare enough materials, participants are encouraged to please register on-line at: <http://anapacificbasic.org>. If you have any questions, you may e-mail the training director, Napua Harbottle at: napua@kaanaiau.com. (PR)

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Marianas Behavioral Health International Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Behavioral Health International Inc. is proposing to operate a drug & alcohol rehabilitation center. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on Lot TR.22507-29, along Haiguas Lane in As Perdido. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: August 11, 2016
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 10, 2016. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Forson Holding (CNMI) LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Forson Holding (CNMI) LLC is proposing to renovate and utilize six (06) existing buildings for employee quarters with staff amenities. The applicant also proposes to fabricate and process building components in another existing warehouse. These uses are classified as "Institutional Residential" and "Manufacturing/Processing" respectively and are permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located in Tanapag on Lot 030 B 21. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club is requesting to amend its Conditional Use Permit #2013-0270 and approved site development plan to reflect changes in parking layout, building design, and height. This proposal is located on Lots 008 H 29, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37 & 012 H 20. These areas are located west of Beach Road and next to Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa. These areas are zoned as Tourist Resort.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Archbishop disavows predecessor's statements on sex abuse

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai, the temporary administrator appointed to Guam by the Vatican in early June, is disavowing the church from statements made by his predecessor, who is facing sexual abuse allegations.

In a news conference in Guam on Wednesday, Hon said former Archbishop Anthony Apuron's prior statements were not consistent the way the church approaches allegations of abuse. He



Hon Tai-Fai

said he recants and retracts all of Apuron's statements.

Apuron had called the accusations malicious and slanderous.

"As I mentioned previously, I take all reports of sexual misconduct by officials of the Church very seriously and I have not, do not, and will not consider a person presenting such reports as malicious or calumnious, or motivated by a desire to at-

tack the church or any other improper purpose. Instead, the Archdiocese should always assume and believe that the intent of those who make allegations of sexual abuse is to bring to light se-

rious claims of abuse," Hon said at a news conference.

"I also pledge to do all in my power to ensure a safe environment in the church for all," he said.

Three former altar boys and the mother of another have named Apuron in a \$2 million lawsuit. Additional

names were added in a revised lawsuit, which includes the church official Pope Francis recently appointed to take over the archdiocese after abuse allegations against Apuron resurfaced.

Apuron hasn't been charged with any crime and has denied abuse allegations.

DoD obligates \$55.65M for civilian water and wastewater improvement projects

HAGATNA, Guam—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced that the U.S. Department of Defense has obligated \$55.65 million for civilian water and wastewater improvement projects related to the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

This funding is part of a \$106.4 million appropriation that was approved by Congress and was authorized by a provision sponsored by Bordallo in the FY16 NDAA. She has secured a similar provision in this year's defense bill that authorizes funding for the remaining funds.

The funding includes the following:

- \$350,000 to perform analyses for the water and wastewater projects;

- \$21,000,000 for final planning and design, overall program/construction management services, and installation of diffuser on outfall for the Northern District Water Treatment Plant;

- \$30,600,000 for final planning, design, and construction to refurbish the sewer line in Northern Guam

which supports Andersen Air Force Base and the new Marine Corps Base; and

- \$3,700,000 for final planning, design, and construction to improve the monitoring system for Guam's sole source of fresh water aquifer.

"These projects are critical to supporting upgrades and improvements to Guam's civilian water and wastewater system, and they further demonstrate the progress we are making to move forward with the Marine realignment. I worked closely with my colleagues in the House and Senate to make these funds available in the FY16 defense bill. I also included a provision to authorize the remaining \$50 million for water and wastewater projects in this year's House defense bill. I am pleased the Department is moving forward with these projects, which will enhance GWA's services on and off base. I will continue to build on the progress that we have made to ensure that the realignment moves forward and is mutually beneficial to our civilian and defense community." (PR)

Ex-Kauai police officer pleads guilty to federal theft offense

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Karen M. Kapua, 53, formerly a lieutenant of the Kauai Police Department, pled guilty in federal court to one count of stealing \$25,000 belonging to the County of Kauai. The theft constituted a violation of federal law because the County of Kauai received federal grants of more than \$10,000 annually, including grants from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

Florence T. Nakakuni, United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii, said that according to information produced to the court, Kapua admitted cashing a \$25,000 check on Dec. 5, 2014, made payable to her by the County of Kauai, and earmarked for vice section operations, and converting the money to her own use. Kapua, in her former position as lieutenant in the Kauai Police Department's vice section, was authorized to request County of Kauai checks to obtain money to make undercover purchases

of narcotics.

Kapua was originally charged in a January 2016 indictment with stealing a total of \$75,000 from the County of Kauai on three separate dates between Dec. 23, 2013 and Dec. 5, 2014, and with laundering the proceeds of one of the theft offenses by making a \$11,457.98 wire transfer to pay off her debts. As part of the plea agreement, Kapua pled guilty to only one offense but agreed that she was responsible for the theft of a total of \$75,000.

Kapua will face a term of imprisonment of up to 10 years, a fine of \$250,000 and restitution when she is sentenced on Oct. 31, 2016 by Chief United States District Judge J. Michael Seabright.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with the assistance of the Kauai Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Larry Tong. (PR)

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Beach Road, Garapan

Look for Eunice Angeles,
Megan Aglipay, or Mel Naputi

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Democrats see a silver lining in an email release

The unauthorized release of 20,000 internal emails from the Democratic National Committee created a huge embarrassment for Hillary Clinton on the eve of the convention that will nominate her for president. Some of the emails confirmed the widespread view that party officials favored Clinton over insurgent Sen. Bernie Sanders. Their release led swiftly to the resignation of Democratic National Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a longtime Clinton ally.

The risk for Clinton is that the stolen emails will exacerbate party divisions, further alienating Sanders supporters already angry about what they see as a “rigged system.” The convention opened on the same sort of raucous note as last week’s fractious GOP gathering, with Sanders’ supporters hooting and shouting “Bernie! Bernie! Bernie!” in response to pro-Clinton speeches.

But some Clinton supporters see a political silver lining in the dissemination of the committee’s internal messages. Because the leaks are widely suspected of being the result of a Russian hacking operation, they can be used to reinforce the narrative that Russian President Vladimir Putin is rooting for Trump and that Trump, in turn, would be too accommodating to Moscow.

Over the weekend, Clinton’s campaign manager, Robby Mook, seemed to connect those dots in an interview on CNN. After citing “experts” for the proposition that the Russians were releasing the emails to help Trump, Mook added that “we also saw last week at the Republican convention that Trump and his allies made changes to the Republican platform to make it more pro-Russian. And we saw him talking about how NATO shouldn’t ... (necessarily) intervene to defend our Eastern European allies if they are attacked by Russia.

“So, I think, when you put all this together, it’s a disturbing picture. And I think voters need to reflect on that.”

The possibility that a foreign government might be engaging in cyber mischief to influence a U.S. election is indeed troubling. Several experts have concluded that the DNC email system was compromised by two Russian intelligence agencies that previously engaged in other operations directed at U.S. government agencies.

The circumstantial case is strong enough that the FBI announced Monday that it is investigating “a cyber intrusion involving the DNC.” Presumably it will seek to determine whether there is Russian government complicity in the attack. (Determining whether the motive was to help Trump’s election prospects would presumably be harder to establish.)

But even if the Russian government played a role in this intrusion and even if the purpose was to help Trump’s candidacy, that doesn’t mean Trump is taking orders from Moscow. Tempting as it might be for Democrats to insinuate that Trump is a Russian version of the Manchurian Can-

See **DEMOCRATS** on Next Page

Time to stop ignoring China’s horrible human rights record

During a trip to Beijing last month for the eighth U.S.-China Strategic Security & Economic Dialogue, Secretary of State John Kerry remarked:

“After all, that’s the purpose of government — to represent the people and to meet the needs of our people, both of us — even though, as President Xi said, we have different systems, different culture, different history. We acknowledge that. We respect that.”

While I too acknowledge China’s impressive 5,000-year cultural history, there is little about the Communist regime of the People’s Republic of China that commands the “respect” of the United States. From Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping, the Chinese people have suffered an unbroken line of oppressive dictators. The Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution are stones in a graveyard of failed Communist experiments that murdered millions, while Tiananmen Square and the One (now Two) Child Policy serve as a warning to any who would seek to escape that repressive policies are unchanged.

The call by Kerry to respect China, and the suggestion that the Communist Party of China “represents the people” and “meets their needs,” were devastating blows to the hundreds of political prisoners languishing in China today.

One such prisoner is Yang Maodong, better known as Guo Feixiong. Guo is serving a six-year term in Yangchun Prison for organizing peaceful protests against press censorship. Currently on the 78th day of a hunger strike, he has lost at least a third of his body weight.

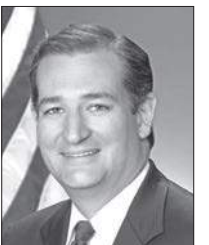
While China has a nominal constitution, there is no corresponding rule of law. Still, brave souls there have given and are giving their lives to change this harsh reality. Guo began his advocacy on behalf of religious minorities, providing legal counsel to incarcerated Christian pastors and Falun Gong-affiliated attorneys. A founding member of the “rights movement” in China, he has defended thousands of Chinese citizens who did not know they were theoretically entitled to civil rights.

Guo was arrested on four separate occasions from 2005 to 2014. His lawyer described Guo’s most recent trial as “a fascist, Cultural-Revolution style apparatus.” China has interrogated Guo over 200 times since 2005, and he suffers from a serious gastrointestinal medical condition. In response to an outcry that

By **TED CRUZ**

The Dallas Morning News

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, a Republican from Texas, wrote this for the Dallas Morning News. Readers may email him at cruz.senate.gov.



he receive proper medical care, Chinese officials shamed Guo by conducting a colonoscopy with no pain killers, while filming the entire procedure. He was denied yard time for over 800 consecutive days.

In a June 9 letter, Guo’s wife, Zhang Qing, pleaded with her husband to end his hunger strike. Zhang and her two children, who have lived in Midland, Texas, since 2009 after fleeing China for their safety, have not seen Guo in six years. Even so, she concluded her letter:

“Everything you’ve been doing is all part of a sincere hope that China will progress, to become a society with equal human rights, basic freedoms and respect for life. These ideals, and striving to realize them, will always be the right thing to do.”

I share Zhang’s — and Guo’s — sincere hope for political liberalization in China. But for too long, the United States has prioritized our economic dealings with China above speaking the truth about the Communist Party of China.

The fact of the matter is that we have real leverage over China, which is extremely sensitive to criticism of its human rights record. We know this to be the case with Guo. His sister was denied visitation because, in her words, “every one of my visits with him led to enormous amounts of international and domestic public opinion and attention and focus (on his case).”

American attention to and focus on Guo’s case are exactly what is needed now. The spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing has reportedly “urged” China to release Guo, but bolder action is needed on the part of the Obama administration. Time is running short.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Russia's finger on the campaign scale

As a lifelong Republican, I don't much care who runs the Democratic National Committee. But I am deeply disturbed by the way that Debbie Wasserman Schultz was forced to resign as the DNC head over the weekend. WikiLeaks released 20,000 stolen emails revealing a clear, if unsurprising, preference for Hillary Clinton over Bernie Sanders among Democratic officials. This appears to be a foreign intervention in American politics — and it may only be the beginning.

Last month, CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity firm hired by the DNC, traced the source of the leaks to two groups of hackers ("Cozy Bear" and "Fancy Bear") associated with two Russian intelligence agencies. Moscow's virtual fingerprints are all over this operation, including hyperlinks in Cyrillic and Internet protocol addresses linked to previous Russian hacks. In short, this appears to be a Russian intelligence operation designed to damage Clinton.

The Russians have every reason to sabotage the Democratic candidate. Her opponent, Donald Trump, is more pro-Russia than any previous presidential candidate. As far back as 2007, Trump was telling CNN that Russian President Vladimir Putin was doing a "great job." In 2013, Trump tweeted: "Do you think Putin will be going to The Miss Universe Pageant in November in Moscow — if so, will he become my new best friend?" In 2015, Trump told MSNBC that Putin was a

real leader, "unlike what we have in this country," and that reports of Putin killing political opponents didn't bother him — "Well, I think our country does plenty of killing also," he said.

Trump repeatedly says he would "get along very well with" Putin. In return Putin has praised Trump as "bright and talented." Trump positively glows as he repeats reports that "Putin likes me."

The Trump-Russia links beneath the surface are even more extensive, as Franklin Foer has shown in *Slate*. Trump has sought and received funding from Russian investors for his business ventures, especially after most American banks stopped lending to him following his multiple bankruptcies. Trump's de facto campaign manager, Paul Manafort, was a longtime consultant to Viktor Yanukovich, the Russian-backed president of Ukraine who was overthrown in 2014. Manafort also has done multimillion-dollar business deals with Russian oligarchs.

Trump's foreign policy advisor Carter Page has his own business ties to the state-controlled Russian oil giant Gazprom. He recently delivered a speech in Moscow slamming the U.S. for its "hypocritical focus on ideas such as democratization" and praising Russia for a foreign policy supposedly built on "noninterference," "tolerance" and "respect." (Try telling that to Ukraine.) Another Trump foreign policy advi-

By **MAX BOOT**
Los Angeles Times



Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and a contributing writer to the Los Angeles Times' opinion section.

sor, retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, flew to Moscow last year to attend a gala banquet celebrating Russia Today, the Kremlin's propaganda channel, and was seated at the head table near Putin. Flynn is a regular guest on Russia Today; he refuses to say whether he gets paid.

Given the pro-Putin orientation of Trump and his circle, it is no surprise that his campaign quietly rolled back a call in the GOP platform for arming Ukraine to fight back against Russian aggression, as most Republican foreign-policy experts have advocated. Trump has more than once criticized NATO, the chief obstacle to Russian designs, as obsolete and has said he wouldn't necessarily come to the aid of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's members if they are attacked by Russia. Trump also cheered Britain's vote to exit the European Union, another institution that Putin sees as an impediment to his influence.

Trump's campaign — whose slogan might as well be "Make Russia Great Again" — presents Putin with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reorient American foreign policy in Russia's favor. Without the countering influence of the U.S., Putin has a good chance to achieve his dream of undoing the collapse of the Soviet Union, which he has called a "geopolitical catastrophe," by reswallowing Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and other former Soviet republics.

Putin may just be getting started in his campaign to elect Trump. Bloomberg reported in June the Clinton Foundation was breached by Russian hackers. The Russians may also have acquired the emails that Hillary Clinton sent as secretary of State. Putin might be holding back explosive material until October, when its release could ensure a Trump victory.

Such a development ought to alarm all Americans, even Republicans. The idea of a hostile foreign power interfering in a U.S. election is a threat to our democracy, one that Republican leaders would be condemning if they hadn't checked their principles at the gate in exchange for tickets on the Trump Train.

DEMOCRATS

From Page 10

didate, they need to avoid guilt by association.

Trump's actual foreign-policy positions provide more than enough ammunition for Democrats who want to argue that his ill-informed approach to Russia would only embolden its leaders. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Trump suggested that the U.S. might not come to the defense of a NATO ally under attack if that country weren't fulfilling its financial obligations to the alliance.

Trump also has said that he would "get along" with Putin, and some of his advisors have ties to Russia. In addition, Paul Manafort, the chairman of Trump's campaign, worked as a political consultant for a pro-Russian government in Ukraine. (Manafort has described as "absurd" the notion that Trump is too cozy with Putin.)

By all means Trump should be pressed to elaborate on how he sees Putin and how his policy toward Russia would differ from that of President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. But Democrats need to be careful not to overplay their hand. It isn't that long ago that accusing Americans of being Russian dupes was a popular, and poisonous, political pastime. That tactic shouldn't be revived, even to score points against Trump.

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First lady takes down Trump without lowering herself

Three sentences.

That's all it took for first lady Michelle Obama to eviscerate the central theme of Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

"Don't let anyone ever tell you that this country is not great," Obama said on the first night of the Democratic National Convention. "That somehow we need to make it great again. Because this right now is the greatest country on Earth."

This was the wife of America's first black president sharing the wonder of seeing her daughters, "two beautiful, intelligent black young women," playing on the White House lawn. This was a strong, successful woman celebrating, with a parent's emotion, how her kids, as Hillary Clinton receives the Democratic nomination, will "now take for granted that a woman can be president of the United States."

Without mentioning Trump's name, without lowering herself to name-calling, the first lady showed us, eloquently and powerfully, that Trump's campaign strives for an America that is great for some, but not all.

There are no black presidents in Trump's great America. There are no women with a chance to become president. There are no Latinos in positions of power, no gay couples marrying, no policies that protect the rights of transgender people.

There is no political correctness. No anti-bullying codes. No laws to prevent discrimination in hiring.

Obama's speech invited Americans to view the return to greatness Trump is promising through her eyes and the eyes of her daughters: "There but for the grace of God, go I. I want a president who will teach our children that everyone in this country matters."

Where was Trump during all this? In North Carolina, telling a rally of predominantly white people about his plans to bring back the great America they all think existed.

He was repeatedly calling Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a fierce Trump critic who has said she had Native American ancestors, "Pocahontas" and saying: "She's got a fresh mouth, other than that she's got nothing going for her."

He was calling Clinton "a fool" and saying of America, "We're not respected anymore. We have leaders that are stupid. We have leaders that are incompetent."

Juxtapose that with the eloquence of Obama's speech, which brought an end to an awkward day of Democratic division be-

By **REX HUPPKE**

Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may email him at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com



tween Clinton supporters and backers of Sen. Bernie Sanders, filling the Philadelphia arena with thunderous applause.

She spoke of how she and her husband help their daughters understand the hateful rhetoric that has bubbled up from people like Trump, who entered the political realm as a birther:

"That is what Barack and I think about every day as we tried to guide and protect our girls from the challenges of this unusual life and the spotlight. How we urged them to ignore those who question their father's citizenship or faith. How we insist that the hateful language they hear from public figures on TV does not represent the true spirit of this country. How we explain that when someone is cruel or acts like a bully, you don't stoop to their level. Our motto is, when they go low, we go high."

Trump has only one direction: low. And he's going low when he promises to make America great again.

Michelle Obama showed us that Monday night.

Here are those sentences again, because they're worth repeating: "Don't let anyone ever tell you that this country is not great. That somehow we need to make it great again. Because this right now is the greatest country on Earth."

She continued: "And as my daughters set out on the world, I want a leader who is worthy of that truth, a leader worthy of my girls' promise and all of our kids' promise. A leader who will be guided every day by the love and hope and impossibly big dreams that we all have for our children."

All of our children. Not just some.

This was a speech that revealed a truth Americans need to acknowledge.

Make America Great Again is a pithy political slogan. And it's an affront to anyone whose America is greater now than it ever has been.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲89° ▼79°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲89° ▼79°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲89° ▼79°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

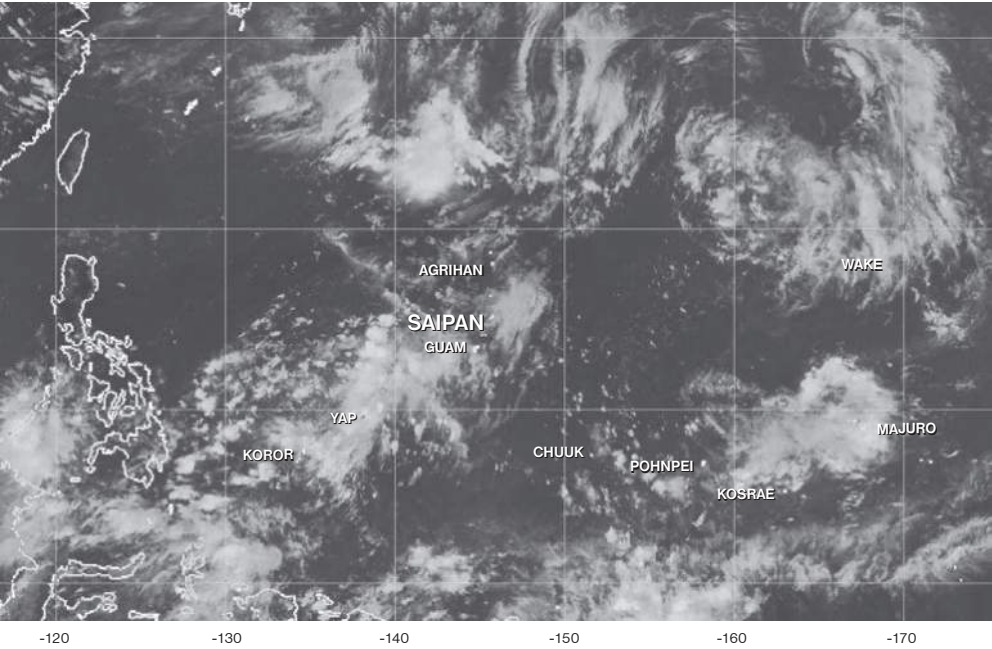
▲90° ▼80°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲90° ▼80°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 5:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Weak high pressure has built across the Marianas which will keep shower isolated through the day. Low-level convergence and a series of weak surface troughs will cause a chance of isolated thunderstorms through Thursday night and again over the weekend. Since these troughs will be weak shower coverage will remain isolated. A disturbance remains over far Western Micronesia, and there could be weak circulations roughly near 4N133E, and near 4N143E. Satellite shows cloudiness with showers and a few thunderstorms in patchy areas over western Palau, and just north of Yap and farther southeast of Yap. Models indicate the disturbance will moved toward northwest during the coming days and become better organized as it moves across the Philippine Sea. Damp weather will continue at Yap and Koror while the disturbance is nearby, and as it slowly departs the area, then slightly drier weather should arrive from the east by weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia ▼ ▲		
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	85 / 92 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	80 / 85 °F
Yap	Heavy rain	78 / 91 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	80 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Strong thunderstorms	79 / 87 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	82 / 85 °F
Majuro	Partly sunny	80 / 87 °F

Around the Globe ▼ ▲		
Auckland	Mostly cloudy	54 / 57 °F
Beijing	Morning clouds	75 / 92 °F
Hong Kong	Sunny	85 / 91 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	75 / 84 °F
London	Afternoon clouds	60 / 71 °F
Los Angeles	Partly sunny	67 / 84 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	78 / 94 °F
Melbourne	Morning clouds	47 / 58 °F
Miami	Cloudy	83 / 89 °F
New York	Partly sunny	76 / 92 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	74 / 89 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	62 / 74 °F
Pusan	Partly sunny	81 / 89 °F
Rome	Morning clouds	67 / 89 °F
Salem	Sunny	59 / 92 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	55 / 72 °F
Seoul	Sunny	75 / 87 °F
Tokyo	Partly sunny	75 / 85 °F
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	73 / 91 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides				
Saipan Harbor				
2:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.96 Feet	
9:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.03 Feet	
4:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.57 Feet	
9:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.07 Feet	

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Monday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	12:32 AM	1:27 PM
Friday	1:23 AM	2:26 PM
Saturday	2:16 AM	3:25 PM
Sunday	3:12 AM	4:23 PM
Monday	4:09 AM	5:18 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2016

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM	PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4	UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM	UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily	
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily				
			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA			
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily				
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily				
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily				
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily				
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily				
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily							

BSI-CSR team hosts NSA summer camp

In its continuous effort to champion community engagement and involvement, Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility has partnered with the non-profit Natibu Sports Association to host a 10-day summer program for children.

"It is great to partner with BSI who has championed community projects and enhanced efforts. On behalf of Natibu Sports Association and our president we want to thank Best Sunshine for this partnership and again bringing your help to our villages," said NSA board member and Rep. George N. Camacho (R-Saipan).

The summer camp was launched yesterday, July 27, and will continue until Aug. 9 at the NSA headquarters in Tanapag. There are 32 children—ages 6 to 12—who have enlisted to participate in the summer camp.

The NSA camp is designed to encourage kids to stay busy during the summer before classes resume. Throughout the summer program, the kids-participants have the opportunity to learn about the different roles of various CNMI agencies, understanding culture, and participate in fun activities.

The camp has also designed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Kids enjoying coloring name tags and making new friends at this year's Natibu Sports Association summer camp led by the Best Sunshine International, Ltd.-Corporate Social Responsibility team.

a program that promotes awareness and prevention against delinquency and substance abuse.

"This is amazing news. As a member of NSA our focus has always been getting our community involved in our youth," Camacho said.

The BSI-CSR team will be taking on the new role as the camp's counselors. They will also spearhead multiple events for the kids primarily to en-

courage learning and staying active through indoor and outdoor activities.

BSI-CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz said the staging of this event was a result of collaboration with Best Sunshine's various community partners.

"Partnering with NSA for the annual summer camp is exciting for our CSR team," said Dela Cruz.

"What's great about

this undertaking is that we reached out to agencies and organizations that we have partnered with in the past and asked them to share their expertise with our children. Now, you can say that this year's NSA summer camp is a collaboration with different community partners," Dela Cruz added.

Among the activities planned by the BSI-CSR team includes tee-ball and softball day, water race and water-balloon competition, crafting, and cultural day. The cultural day celebration will highlight children-participants showcase of traditional dances, beading, and weaving.

The BSI-CSR team will also facilitate field trips and on-site visits by children to several government agencies and departments including the Carolinian Affairs Office, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service,



BSI-CSR representative Frances Tudela assists a young camper in writing her name during one of the groups crafting activities.



Camp counselor and BSI-CSR representative Maelyn Naputi assists one of the young campers peel an orange during snack time.

and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, among others.

"On behalf of NSA, BSI's assistance and support in helping to keep our youth and community safe is very much appreciated," said NSA board

of director Vincent Camacho. "Our summer camp program this year would not be as successful without the great partnership that we have formed with the CSR team working with our community." (PR)



BSI-CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz joins the young campers during their stretching activities.



Young campers show off their work after an activity during the summer camp program that began yesterday.



A group of kids poses alongside their camp counselors during one of their activities at NSA headquarters.



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Business

Japan poised to pump up sluggish growth with new stimulus

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced plans Wednesday for a fresh barrage of economic stimulus to help revive stalling growth.

Speaking in the southern city of Fukuoka, Abe put the scale of the extra spending at more than 28 trillion yen (\$265 billion), the Kyodo News Service and other local media reported.

The proposed package is due to be approved by the Cabinet on Aug. 2, Kyodo reported. It would then be included in a supplementary budget for consideration by the parliament's extraordinary session in September.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters in a routine briefing on Wednesday that the ruling party and its coalition partner the Komeito were still hammering out details of the plan.

Japan's economy, the world's third largest, has stagnated for years, and massive monetary and government stimulus have so far failed to

AP
In this June 21, 2016 file photo, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during the debate of the political party leaders ahead of the July upper house election in Tokyo.



jolt it into a sustained recovery.

Abe took office in late 2012 vowing to "bring Japan back," and has made some progress toward his goal of higher in-

flation and faster growth. But the aging and shrinking of the Japanese population has discouraged companies from investing much in the home

market, and wages have not risen significantly enough to drive a spending boom, despite a very tight labor market. Shares in Tokyo jumped

Wednesday after a local news network reported Abe was planning about 27 trillion yen (\$254 billion) in fresh stimulus.

Among other measures, Abe will propose improved

wages for childcare and elder care workers, introduction of needs-based scholarships for college students and reduced employment time required to earn pensions.

A large share of the spending will go to improving infrastructure, such as expanding ports to accommodate ultra-large ships and accelerating a decades-long high-speed maglev train project.

Campaigning for a parliamentary election held earlier this month, Abe promised fresh help for the economy, and ordered his economy minister, Nobuteru Ishihara, to draw up the package.

Earlier reports put the size of the package as low as 6 trillion yen (about \$57 billion).

Economists say the Bank of Japan also will likely expand monetary stimulus at a policy meeting that begins Thursday.

"The Abe administration continues to highlight the importance of cooperation with the Bank of Japan for a fiscal stimulus package," Alex Wijaya of CMC Markets said in a commentary.

Cybersecurity experts see merit in claims of Russian hacking

PARIS (AP)—Experts who've followed the leak of Democratic National Committee documents say they believe the party's claim that Moscow had a hand in the hack, lending weight to the extraordinary allegation that the Kremlin is trying to tamper with the U.S. presidential contest.

"You're left with all the signs pointing to Moscow," said Matt Tait, a U.K.-based cybersecurity consultant who has put in roughly 20 hours combing through the leaked DNC documents.

Tait and others invoke several categories of evidence. The first was pro-

vided by threat intelligence firm CrowdStrike, an Irvine, California company that was hired by the Democrats to clean out the party's network. It delivered a report last month identifying Russia's intelligence services as being behind two separate electronic break-ins at the DNC. The second category of evidence was provided by electronic fingerprints on some of the documents suggesting the files had been run through Russian language-configured machines.

Most convincing for Tait was evidence that the internet infrastructure tied the

DNC hackers to a separate campaign that targeted Germany's parliament last year. In May, Germany's domestic intelligence chief took the unusual step of publicly blaming that attack on Moscow, saying the Kremlin wasn't just spying—it was gearing up for sabotage.

"More than anything else I think (that) really puts to rest the 'Who is this?'" Tait said Tuesday. "It's one thing to say that they were typing stuff in Russian or they were coming from a Russian IP (internet protocol) address or their systems were configured in Russian. It's another thing to

say this was being run by the same servers being publicly attributed by German intelligence as being Russian."

Hillary Clinton's campaign, citing CrowdStrike, blamed Russia for hacking the party's computers and suggested the goal was to benefit Donald Trump's campaign.

Trump tweeted Tuesday that the Democrats were trying to "deflect the horror and stupidity" of the leak, calling the suggestion "crazy!" A spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday called the allegation "paranoid."

As iPhone sale sag, Apple touts apps and services instead

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—You can expect to hear a lot more from Apple about the virtues of mobile apps and online services in coming months. And for good reason: They're just about the only part of Apple's business that's growing right now.

Apps and services have always been key to the appeal of Apple products. But with iPhone sales down for the second quarter in a row—and speculation that a major redesign won't arrive until late next year—Apple is talking up its online business, promoting it with new kinds of ads and even sponsoring an upcoming reality TV show called "Planet of the Apps."

The giant tech company sold 40.4 million iPhones in the last quarter—15 percent fewer than a year ago, according to its earnings report Tuesday. Analysts say consumers just aren't as excited about the newest iPhone models. As a result, Apple's overall revenue fell 15 percent to \$42.4 billion for the three months ending June 30.

Apple also sold fewer iPad units, Mac computers and Apple Watches in the last quarter, although iPad revenue increased, thanks to the introduction of higher-priced iPad Pro models. And a modestly better forecast for the current

quarter sent Apple shares up nearly 7 percent in late trading, after closing at \$96.63.

But the biggest bright spot in the company's report was a 19 percent sales jump for the segment that includes iTunes, Apple Music, the App Store and services like Apple Pay and iCloud storage. That segment produced nearly \$6 billion in sales—more than Apple pulled in from quarterly sales of either iPads or Macs.

Apple makes money from online services by taking a percentage whenever users pay to download a song from iTunes, buy an app from the App Store or subscribe to a streaming service like Apple Music. It keeps 30 cents of every dollar spent in the App Store, for example, and passes 70 cents to the app developer. Apple also collects fees from people who buy extra iCloud storage and from banks when customers use their credit cards with Apple Pay.

Since growth is what Wall Street likes to see, Apple executives are increasingly touting the purchasing power of the company's massive customer base—nearly 600 million owners of Apple devices who spend an average of \$68 a year on apps, music and other services, according to estimates by Credit Suisse.

\$15B Volkswagen emissions deal clears 1st hurdle

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A nearly \$15 billion settlement over Volkswagen's emissions cheating scandal cleared a key hurdle Tuesday, with a federal judge giving preliminary approval to the deal that includes an option for owners to have the carmaker buy back their vehicles.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer called the settlement an "enormous effort" by attorneys from both sides and urged Volkswagen owners who may want to opt out and pursue their own lawsuits to consider the deal's environmental achievements.

"Because that's significant, and that's part of what you're

attempting to achieve in this settlement," said Breyer, who is overseeing consumer lawsuits and government allegations that Volkswagen's diesel engines cheated on U.S. emissions tests.

The German carmaker has agreed to spend up to \$10 billion buying back or repairing about 475,000 Volkswagens and Audi vehicles with 2-liter diesel engines and paying their owners an additional \$5,100 to \$10,000 each. Details about the vehicle repairs have not been finalized.

The settlement also includes \$2.7 billion for unspecified environmental mitigation and an additional \$2 billion to pro-

mote zero-emissions vehicles.

The judge's decision allows attorneys to notify vehicle owners of the terms and consumers to use a settlement website to determine how much compensation they would get. They could object and opt out, allowing them to pursue legal action against Volkswagen on their own.

The deal does not cover about 85,000 more-powerful Volkswagens and Audis with 3-liter engines also caught up in the emissions scandal.

Volkswagen has acknowledged that the cars were programmed to turn on emissions controls during government

lab tests and turn them off while on the road. Investigators found that the cars emitted more than 40 times the legal limit of nitrogen oxide, which can cause respiratory problems.

The company still faces billions more dollars in fines and penalties and possible criminal charges.

Breyer's preliminary approval of the settlement was expected. The judge, who is set to make a final decision in October, has kept close tabs on the negotiations and praised the efforts of attorneys and a court-appointed settlement master who helped broker the deal.

Nation

Clinton wins historic nomination, says glass ceiling cracked

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—On a night awash in history, Hillary Clinton triumphantly became the first woman to lead a major American political party toward the White House, breaking through a barrier that painfully eluded her eight years ago.

She put an electrifying cap on the Democratic convention's second night, appearing by video from New York and declaring to cheering delegates, "We just put the biggest crack in that glass ceiling yet."

Minutes earlier, former President Bill Clinton took on the role of devoted political spouse, declaring his wife an impassioned "change-maker" as he served as character witness. He traced their more than 40-year political and personal partnership in deep detail.

"She has been around a long time," he acknowledged. Casting her experience as an attribute, he added, "She's been worth every single year she's put into making people's lives better."

For a man more accustomed to delivering policy-packed stem-winders, Clinton's heartfelt address underscored the historic night for Democrats, and the nation. If she wins in November, the Clintons would also be the first married couple to each serve as president.

She will take on Donald Trump, who won the Republican nomination a week ago. Trump, who campaigned Tuesday in North Carolina, mocked the former president's speech in advance, calling him "over-rated."

At Trump's convention last week, Clinton was the target of blistering criticism of her character and judgment, a



Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton appears on a large monitor to thank delegates during the second day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

sharp contrast to the warm and passionate woman described by her husband. Seeking to explain the vastly different perceptions of his wife, Clinton said simply, "One is real, the other is made up."

The former president took voters back to a time before an affair with an intern led to his impeachment - and to intense public scrutiny of the first couple's marriage. While her aides believe his past transgressions are old news to voters, they have flared up anew at times during the campaign, with Trump often leading the charge.

Bill Clinton headlined the second night of the Democratic convention, a jubilant celebration of her formal nomination for president. In an important move for party unity, her primary rival Bernie Sanders helped make it official when the roll call got

to his home state of Vermont, prompting delegates to erupt in cheers. It was a striking par-

allel to the role Clinton played eight years ago when she stepped to the microphone on

the convention floor in Denver in support of her former rival, Barack Obama.

This time, Clinton shattered the glass ceiling she couldn't crack in 2008.

She leads a party still grappling with divisions. Moments after Clinton claimed the nomination, a group of Sanders supporters left the convention and headed to a media tent to protest what they said was their being shut out of the party. At the same time, protesters who had spent the day marching in the hot sun began facing off with police.

Trump cheered the disruptions from the campaign trail. In North Carolina, he told a convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that, "our politicians have totally failed you."

Indeed, Clinton's long political resume—secretary of state, senator, first lady—has

sometimes seemed an odd fit for an electorate deeply frustrated with Washington and eager to rally around unconventional candidates like Trump and Sanders. Many voters have questions about her character and trustworthiness, suggesting she's used her access to power to her personal advantage.

President Clinton spoke after three hours of testimonials from lawmakers, advocates, celebrities and citizens who argued otherwise. Each took the stage to vouch for her commitment to working on health care, children's issues and gun control.

"Hillary Clinton has the passion and understanding to support grieving mothers," said Sybrina Fulton, whose son Trayvon Martin was killed in 2012. "She has the courage to lead the fight for common-sense gun legislation."

Sanders loyalists warn of party split after Clinton victory

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bernie Sanders loyalists warned that the Democratic Party could rupture over the nomination of Hillary Clinton after a volatile night that saw a large group of Sanders delegates and supporters exit the party's national convention to stage a sit-in at a nearby media tent.

They rejected Sanders' call for unity even after the Vermont senator took the symbolic step of declaring Clinton the winner of the state-by-state delegate count inside the convention in Philadelphia.

"I suspect we are witnessing an event that will fundamentally change American politics," said Cory James, 22, a college student from Flint, Michigan, who expects

the Democratic Party to break apart over Clinton's victory.

Thousands of activists have taken to the streets during the convention this week to voice support for Sanders, a liberal U.S. senator, and his progressive agenda. The "Bernie or bust" brigades that have marched across the sun-warped city threatened to disrupt Clinton's moment as the first woman to be nominated for president by a major U.S. political party.

"We all have this unrealistic dream that democracy is alive in America," said Debra Dilks, of Boonville, Missouri, who spoke as a protest broke up near Philadelphia's City Hall.

She said she wasn't sure she would even vote in November.

"Hillary didn't get the nomination. The nomination was stolen," Dilks said.

At the media tent protest, some had their mouths taped shut, while a few others spontaneously sang, "This land is our land." They said they were holding a peaceful protest to complain about being shut out by the Democratic Party.

In the streets outside, Sanders supporters who had spent the day protesting began facing off with police. They started scaling 8-foot walls that blocked off the secure zone around the arena parking lot. Police and the Secret Service immediately arrested four protesters, who will be charged with entering a restricted area. They're scheduled to appear in court

Wednesday.

Protests continued into the night as Sanders supporters and an anti-police brutality group joined together. Later, another protester set an Israeli flag on fire as people chanted, "long live the intifada."

Others then came together for a candlelight vigil.

Earlier in the day, activists held a midday rally at City Hall, and then made their way down Broad Street to the convention site. By early evening, a large crowd had formed outside the subway station closest to the arena. The crowd consisted of an assortment of protesters espousing a variety of causes, but mostly Sanders supporters and other Clinton foes on the left.

ACROSS THE NATION

Young boy who went missing from Boston beach found dead

BOSTON (AP)—An 8-year-old boy who went missing from a summer day camp at a Boston beach has been found dead in the water. Kyzr Willis was reported missing around 3 p.m. Tuesday from the city-run camp at Carson Beach in the city's South Boston neighborhood. He was found dead around 7 p.m. Police say the child wandered off from the L Street Bathhouse. The reason he left remains unclear. The bathhouse will remain closed while police continue to investigate. The U.S. Coast Guard, state police, Boston police and Quincy police all assisted in the search.

Sushi restaurant worker among 93 Hawaii hepatitis A cases

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaii outbreak of hepatitis A has grown to 93 cases, including an infected sushi restaurant worker who might have exposed diners, the state's Department of Health said Tuesday. No source has been identified for the outbreak on the island of Oahu. But the health department warned people who ate at the sushi restaurant on the island of Hawaii on dates the employee worked this month that they could have been exposed. The restaurant was identified as Sushi Shiono at the Waikoloa Beach Resort. The department said the employee recently worked there two four-day stretches and one lasting five days—July 5-8, July 11-15 and July 18-21.

California wildfire forces shutdown of famed Big Sur parks

BIG SUR, Calif. (AP)—California's signature parks along the Big Sur coastline that draw thousands of daily visitors were closed Tuesday as one of the state's two major wildfires threatened the scenic region at the height of the summer tourism season.

To the south, firefighters made progress containing a huge blaze in mountains outside Los Angeles, allowing authorities to let most of 20,000 people evacuated over the weekend to return home. In Wyoming, a large backcountry wildfire in the Shoshone National Forest put about 290 homes and guest ranches at risk.

The Big Sur fire threatened

a long stretch of pristine, forested mountains hugging the coast and sent smoke billowing over the famed Pacific Coast Highway, which remained open with few if any flames visible to motorists but a risk that the blaze could reach beloved campgrounds, lodges and redwoods near the shore.

"It is folly to predict where this fire will go," said California state parks spokesman Dennis Weber.

The Los Angeles-area fire has destroyed 18 homes since it started and authorities over the weekend discovered a burned body in a car identified Tuesday as a man who refused to be evacuated.

A woman living in the house Robert Bresnick was visiting left with firefighters but he went back inside the house. The body of Bresnick, 67, was found about 20 minutes later Saturday in the car after flames tore through the neighborhood, said Los Angeles County Coroner's Assistant Ed Winter.

The Big Sur closures were put into place for parks that draw 7,500 visitors daily from around the world for their dramatic vistas of ocean and mountains. Campgrounds were closed because of the dangers smoke could pose to visitors but could reopen soon if the blaze is held back by firefighters, Weber said.

Jim Newby, a Phoenix-area tourist, drove along the Pacific Coast Highway with his family and was disappointed at the smoke.

"We wanted to see more of the ocean," Newby said. "We didn't see a whole lot of it unfortunately, and it's a beautiful, beautiful stretch."

The park shutdowns came as a fire that started Friday just north of Big Sur grew Tuesday to 30 square miles (78 square kilometers) but was just 10 percent contained. Twenty homes have burned in the zone, residents of 300 more were ordered to evacuate and more than 2,000 firefighters were trying to douse the blaze.

Asia

OVER NUKE TENSIONS:

N. Korea warns US of 'terrifying price'

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)—North Korea warned the United States on Tuesday that it will pay a "terrifying price" if the Korean Peninsula sinks into deeper tensions, stepping up its rhetoric hours after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry blasted Pyongyang for its nuclear program.

Kerry told a regional security conference being hosted by Laos that North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons—when the world is trying to rid itself of them—is "very provocative and deeply concerning." He urged the country to follow the lead of Iran, which hammered out a deal to end its nuclear program in return for the lifting of sanctions.

However, North Korea was slapped with new U.N. sanctions in March, and Kerry

urged the international community to fully enforce those and previous sanctions.

In North Korea's typical fashion of unleashing rhetorical threats, its foreign minister, Ri Yong-ho, told the same conference, known as the ASEAN Regional Forum, that the country is ready to face any sanctions. It was mindful of all possible sanctions when it took the "inevitable strategic decision" to develop nuclear weapons to counter the "never-ending nuclear blackmails of the U.S.," he said.

North Korea says it needs nuclear weapons to cope with what it sees as U.S. military threats. The United States stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea and regularly holds joint military drills with South Korea. Pyongyang has

long demanded Washington withdraw its troops from South Korea and stop the joint drills, which it calls an invasion rehearsal.

"We are ready to show that even a (powerful) country will surely not be safe if it tries to torment and harm a small country," Ri said, according to the text of his speech released to the media. "The United States will have to pay dearly a terrifying price."

But in later comments to reporters, published by South Korea's Yonhap news agency, Ri struck a slightly conciliatory tone. "As a responsible nuclear state, we will not carelessly use our nuclear weapons unless we come to face an actual threat, (or) a threat of invasion from another nuclear state," Ri was quoted as saying by Yonhap.

Rare mass killing raises questions about security in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—The killing of 19 people at a home for the mentally disabled raised questions about whether Japan's reputation as one of the safest countries in the world is creating a false sense of security.

The deadliest mass killing in Japan in the post-World War II era unfolded early Tuesday in Sagami-hara, a city about 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of central Tokyo, when authorities say a former employee broke into the facility and stabbed more than 40 people before calmly

turning himself in to police.

The suspect, identified as 26-year-old Satoshi Uematsu, had worked at the facility from 2014 until February, when he was let go. He wrote to Parliament outlining the bloody plan and saying all disabled should be put to death.

While not immune to violent crime, Japan has a relatively low homicide rate of well under one per 100,000 people. Mass killings usually are seen half a world away on the nightly news, although seven Japanese were among

the dead in a recent hostage-taking in Bangladesh that targeted non-Muslims.

Because such massacres are rare, Japan has become overconfident about its safety, a Japanese criminologist said.

For crime prevention, the country relies on its social system in which a group mentality sacrifices individual freedom for collective safety, said Nobuo Komiya, a criminology professor at Ritssho University in Tokyo.

As a result, it has neglected risk management, he said.

an hour's drive from the border. It says the leaflets contained threats to launch missile attacks on South Korea and praises of the North's political system. A Cold War-style standoff flared after the North's fourth nuclear test in January. Seoul resumed blasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts and K-pop songs from border loudspeakers. Pyongyang responded by restarting its own border broadcasts and floating balloons carrying anti-South leaflets.

Northeast India rains kill 7, force 1.2M from homes

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Heavy rains and floods have killed at least seven people and forced around 1.2 million to leave their waterlogged homes in India's northeastern state of Assam. Army soldiers on Tuesday used boats to rescue thousands of people stranded on the roofs of their homes and moved them to safer areas after incessant rain over the past few days caused widespread flooding in Assam. The state's disaster management officials said incessant downpours had snapped road and telephone communications in Morigaon, Jorhat and Dibrugarh districts. Vast tracts of Kaziranga National Park, home to the rare one-horned rhino, and another wildlife reserve were under water. Forest officials said they have found the remains of at least one rhino that had drowned in the flooding in the park.

World

IS claims attack that killed 85-year-old French priest

SAINT-ETIENNE-DU-ROUVRAY, France (AP)—

The Islamic State group crossed a new threshold Tuesday in its war against the West, as two of its followers targeted a church in Normandy, slitting the throat of an elderly priest celebrating Mass and using hostages as human shields before being shot by police.

It was the extremist group's first attack against a church in the West, and fulfills longstanding threats against "crusaders" in what the militants paint as a centuries-old battle for power. One of the attackers had tried twice to leave for Syria; the second was not identified.

"To attack a church, to kill a priest, is to profane the republic," French President Francois Hollande told the nation after speaking with Pope Francis, who condemned the killing in the strongest terms.

The Rev. Jacques Hamel was celebrating Mass for three nuns and two parishioners on a quiet summer morning in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray when the attackers burst in and forced the 85-year-old priest to his knees before slicing his throat, according to authorities and a nun who escaped.

The nun described seeing the attackers film themselves and give a sermon in Arabic around the altar before she fled. Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said the other hostages were used as hu-



AP
Police officers stand in front of a building during a search operation in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, Normandy, France, following an attack on a church that left a priest dead, Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

man shields to block police from entering. One 86-year-old parishioner was wounded.

The two attackers were killed by police as they rushed from the building shouting "Allahu Akbar," Molins said. One had three knives and a fake explosives belt; the other carried a kitchen timer wrapped in aluminum foil and had fake explosives in his backpack.

One of the assailants was identified as Adel Kermiche, a 19-year-old who grew up in the town and tried to travel to Syria twice last year using family members' identity documents, but was arrested outside France and handed preliminary terrorism charges.

Kermiche was put under house arrest with an electronic surveillance bracelet after a judge overruled prosecutors and agreed to free him, Molins said. However, the

bracelet was deactivated for a few hours every morning as part of the surveillance agreement, Molins said—hours that corresponded to the time of Tuesday's attack.

A statement published by the IS-affiliated Amaq news agency said Tuesday's attack was carried out by "two soldiers of the Islamic State" who acted in response to calls to target nations in the U.S.-led coalition fighting the extremist group in Iraq and Syria.

Haras Rafiq, managing director of the Quilliam Foundation, described the attack as a turning point. "What these two people today have done is ... shifted the tactical attack to the attack on Rome ... an attack on Christianity," he said.

He warned that it could "radicalize people from both sides of the communities. Muslim and non-Muslim."

Many factors make France the top IS terror target in Europe

PARIS (AP)—When militants loyal to the Islamic State group seek to inflict pain on Europe, France is their preferred target, a grim reality borne out yet again with Tuesday's knife slaughter of a Catholic priest.

Since January 2015, IS-inspired attackers have killed at least 235 people in France, by far the largest casualty rate of any Western country. French citizens or French-speaking residents have committed the overwhelming majority of strikes, often employing suicide tactics alongside command of their home surroundings.

President Francois Hollande argues that France is their top enemy on the continent because of his

homeland's reputation as a cradle of human rights and democracy.

"If terrorists strike us, it is because they know what France represents," Hollande said after this month's Bastille Day truck attack that killed 84 people on Nice's crowded waterfront.

Analysts agree that Islamic State propagandists particularly target France as a land anchored in secular values, liberal freedoms and life's pleasures. But its colonial history, demographic tensions and interventionist policies against militant Muslims abroad point to deeper reasons why anti-Western killers seek so ruthlessly to bring grief to France's door.

France has the largest

population of Muslims in Europe, more than 5 million in a nation of 66 million, a legacy of its colonial domination of large swathes of Africa and the Middle East. Most have grown up speaking French alongside Arabic and are disproportionately represented in France's poorest, most alienated districts.

French soldiers and special forces remain committed today in predominantly Muslim corners of former overseas possessions, fighting IS-linked extremists in Africa and fueling calls for retaliation on French soil. French air power is strengthening the nearly 2-year-old coalition offensive against suspected IS targets in Iraq and Syria, too.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China criticizes US, Japan, Australia for 'fanning' tensions

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi criticized the United States, Japan and Australia for a joint statement on the South China Sea that he said was only "fanning the flames" of regional tensions just as countries have agreed to cool them down. Wang said in a statement Wednesday that the move by the three countries came at an inappropriate time and wasn't constructive. "This tri-lateral statement is fanning the flames," he said. "Now it is the time to test whether you are peacekeepers or troublemakers," said Wang's statement, referring to the three countries. The three allies urged China not to construct military outposts and reclaim land in the disputed waters, making a strong show of support for Southeast Asian nations that have territorial disputes with Beijing, notably the Philippines and Vietnam.

Seoul: North Korea floats propaganda leaflets via river

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea is accusing rival North Korea of floating propaganda leaflets via a river in the first such incident. The Defense Ministry said Wednesday it recently discovered dozens of plastic bags, each carrying about 20 leaflets, near a Seoul river close to the tense Korean border. Seoul is only

Environment

Lead levels near California battery plant were far beyond health limits

By **TONY BARBOZA** and **BEN POSTON**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Homes, schools and a day care center near a closed battery recycler in nearby Vernon are contaminated with higher levels of brain-damaging lead than previously disclosed, with soil samples at one property as much as 100 times above California's health standard, state and county records show.

Yet it remains unclear where and at what concentrations the poisonous metal has been detected in neighborhoods near the Exide Technologies plant because California regulators have not released pollution readings for the vast majority of properties.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control says it has tested the soil of more than 2,400 homes, but provided readings for just 269 properties.

A summary of results for 1,190 homes released Friday by the department was not broken down by property or location, but indicated that thousands of soil samples were above state health standards and hundreds were at hazardous waste levels.

Though the department says it informs individual residents of their test results within two months, the lack of disclosure of sampling data prevents the affected communities and the public from gauging the state's overall progress in finding and removing lead-contaminated soil across seven southeast L.A. communities, the largest such effort conducted in California.

For three decades, state regulators allowed the plant about five miles from downtown L.A. to operate without a full permit while it racked up environmental violations for spewing lead, arsenic and other dangerous pollutants. They now believe those emissions fouled as many as 10,000 homes within 1.7 miles.

Lead is a powerful neurotoxin that poses the greatest risks to children younger than 6. Even small amounts can lower IQs, reduce academic achievement and cause other permanent developmental and behavioral problems.

An analysis by state health officials in April found that children living near the facility had higher levels of lead in their blood than those living farther away.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers a soil level of 400 parts per

million or higher a health hazard in bare soil in children's play areas. More than half the properties included in the data released Friday registered lead readings above that threshold, an analysis shows.

California's health standard for residential soil is even more stringent, at 80 ppm.

More than 98 percent of homes had levels of lead above the 80-ppm standard, according to data from the state toxics agency and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

The limited soil sampling results, obtained by The Los Angeles Times under the California Public Records Act, show that 36 properties had lead readings exceeding 1,000 ppm, a level so high it is classified as hazardous waste. The data was collected during a three-month period that ended in late February.

More than one-third of those homes are in East Los Angeles, with four on South Alma Avenue.

The state toxics department says more than 235 homes have been cleaned since 2014, when soil testing revealed lead contamination in neighborhoods near the plant.

State officials say the removal of polluted soil from more than 2,000 additional homes cannot begin until next spring, when they expect to complete a lengthy review of the cleanup required under the California Environmental Quality Act. It will take another year to clean those homes at a rate of 50 properties a week, officials say.

As regulators spend \$176.6 million set aside for testing and cleanup, they say they will give priority to the most-contaminated properties — those above 1,000 ppm — and those with young children, pregnant women, bare soil and other factors that increase the risk of lead poisoning.

More time and hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funding will be required to clean thousands of other homes that are likely to be contaminated across the communities of Bell, Commerce, East Los Angeles, Huntington Park, Boyle Heights, Maywood and Vernon. The state plans to seek reimbursement from Exide and any other responsible parties.

Pollution data are considered open records because lawmakers and the courts have decided that people have a right to know where they may be exposed to a health hazard. The Times began filing public

records requests for testing and cleanup data for homes, schools, day-care facilities and parks in March.

The state toxics department provided some soil readings but would not release the addresses of the homes sampled, citing the confidentiality of "personal or private information." It released no records on which properties have been cleaned.

Officials with the depart-

ment have told residents at recent community meetings that they are developing a way to post online maps of what areas have been tested and cleaned without publicly posting details that the state asserts would invade individuals' privacy.

Other agencies have also been slow or inconsistent in their release of soil-testing data.

In February and March, contractors hired by the Los

Angeles County Department of Public Health tested about 500 homes near Exide in Maywood, Commerce and East Los Angeles. The highest lead level found was 8,442 ppm, or more than 100 times the state's standard.

County officials released the readings after multiple requests from The Times, but they, too, withheld the locations — as well as envi-

ronmental reports and other records detailing how it spent more than \$2 million on soil testing and other Exide cleaning efforts.

The county kept that information secret on the grounds that sampling by its contractor, Roux Associates Inc., was, at the direction of its attorneys, done "confidentially" — and is therefore bound by attorney-client privilege.

FIFTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of our Beloved

Dolores Barcinas
Agulto Inos
"Better known as Ling"



Missing You

*We're missing you a little more
Each time we hear your name,
We've cried so many tears
Yet our heart's broken just the same.
We miss our times together
Things in common we could share,
But nothing fills the emptiness
Now you're no longer there.
We've so many precious memories
To last our whole life through
Each one of them reminders
Of how much we're missing you.*

We, the children, respectfully invite our families and friends to join us in the daily Eucharistic Celebration to be offered in her memory beginning Friday, July 29, 2016 through Saturday, August 6, 2016, 6:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Your thoughts, presence and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You

The Children

Life & Style

Nomination fatigue? Elizabeth Banks' jokes fall flat

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

You could've heard crickets in the Democratic convention hall when the "Pitch Perfect" and "Hunger Games" actress attempted a joke or two in introducing a short video about Hillary Clinton.

Delegates barely laughed or clapped. Nomination fatigue? Clinton had just received the party nod.

Banks walked to the podium in white fog to Queen's "We Are the Champions," mocking a similar entrance at the Republican convention by Donald Trump.

"The Trump campaign is hard up for money. I just bought their fog machine on eBay for 30 bucks," she attempted. "I don't feel good about it. I don't."

Nothing.

Also taking the stage Tuesday was "Girls" creator Lena Dunham, who praised Clinton for making it easier for sexual



assault survivors like herself in New York to access emergency room care. She was joined by "Superstore" star America Ferrera, who spoke of her Honduran parents and their struggles raising a family on meager salaries.

"Occasionally I needed a free meal to get through the school day," she said, citing what she called Clinton's commitment to immigrant families like hers.

Tony Goldwyn, who isn't president but plays one on "Scandal," introduced "mothers of the movement," women of color who lost children

to gun violence or excessive force in police custody. He said these mothers "have turned their pain into power and their outrage into action," adding, "They understand that we must reach out to each other because of our diversity, because we are stronger together."

Debra Messing, who co-

AP
Actress Elizabeth Banks speaks during the second day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

starred on "Will & Grace," introduced a first responder and a victim from the 9/11 terror attack. And singer Andra Day performed her "Rise Up," accompanied by United Percussion, a drumline and marching band.

To close out the evening, actress Meryl Streep, wearing an American flag-motif dress, likened Clinton's "grit and grace" to a host of women trailblazers through history, from Harriet Tubman to Sally Ride.

Streep spoke of Deborah Samson, who disguised herself as a man to serve in George Washington's Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Rather than reveal her gender after being shot, she dug a musket ball out of the wound with a penknife and sewed herself up.

"These women share something in common," Streep said, "capacity of mind, full-

ness of heart and a burning passion for their cause. They have forged new paths so that others can follow them—men and women, generation on generation. That's Hillary. That's America."

Streep was followed by singer and activist Alicia Keys, founder of the We Are Here social justice movement.

"Let's act on our differences and celebrate them," Keys urged as she performed a medley of her songs.

Earlier Tuesday, Bryan Cranston, who played President Lyndon B. Johnson on Broadway and HBO, appeared on a civil rights panel with 1960s-era activists and signed on to an anti-Donald Trump campaign with more than 100 other celebrities at the Democratic National Convention.

Cranston was joined by Julianne Moore, Kerry Washington, Mark Ruffalo, Neil Patrick Harris, Shonda Rhimes and Macklemore in calling on Americans to deny Trump the White House. It's part of MoveOn.org's "United Against Hate" effort.

Fox News wins with GOP coverage; NBC is most-watched overall

NEW YORK (AP)—Viewers chose cable news over broadcast TV for coverage of the Republican National Convention last week, with the Nielsen Top 20 claiming eight cable programs focused on the GOP confab.

Among the cable news networks, it was Fox News Channel's week in particular to shine even as it reeled from the ouster of its founding father, Roger Ailes, accused of sexual harassment.

Besides its flurry of high-ranking individual programs, Fox News ranked No. 1 by far in prime-time among cable networks, averaging 4.1 million viewers. And it was second among all networks, cable or broadcast, behind only by NBC.

Meanwhile, CNN, the week's second-most-watched cable network, drew an average of 2.4 million viewers with its GOP coverage.

Among the networks overall, NBC led with a prime-time average of 5.1 million viewers, for what NBC says is its longest winning streak, excluding Olympics coverage, in 14 years. Last week's top two shows were editions of NBC's "America's Got Talent."

But Fox News took the third and fourth slots with its coverage of GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump's acceptance speech. For the week, Fox News' 4.1 million average was followed by CBS with 4.0

million. ABC had 3.8 million and CNN had 2.4 million, with the Fox Broadcasting network right behind 2.2 million.

Univision had 1.7 million viewers, Telemundo had 1.5 million, followed by MSNBC—the third member of the cable-news trio—with 1.4 million. After that, ION Television had 1.2 million, and the CW had 890,000 viewers.

In the evening news derby, NBC's "Nightly News" held the top spot in a squeaker with 7.56 million viewers, followed by ABC's "World News Tonight" with 7.50 million. The "CBS Evening News" had 6.09 million.

For the week of July 18-24, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships: "America's Got Talent" (Tuesday), NBC, 11.10 million; "America's Got Talent" (Wednesday), NBC, 10.78 million; GOP Convention Coverage (10 p.m. Thursday), Fox News Channel, 9.72 million; GOP Convention Coverage (11 p.m. Thursday), Fox News Channel, 9.10 million; "60 Minutes," CBS, 7.87 million; "Celebrity Family Feud," ABC, 7.68 million; GOP Convention Coverage (Wednesday, 10 p.m.), Fox News Channel, 7.34 million; "The Bachelor," ABC, 6.76 million; "The \$100,000 Pyramid," ABC, 6.72 million; "The Big Bang Theory," CBS, 6.64 million.

Convention: Fox's news decisions, Bill Clinton's return

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

A look at the Democratic National Convention Tuesday through a media lens:

It was an emotionally charged moment when mothers of black Americans killed in police-involved shootings took the stage to address the convention. Delegates chanted, "Black lives matter," and cameras caught tears streaming down the cheeks of some audience members.

CNN, MSNBC and PBS all aired the presentation (it was before the broadcast networks came on the air), but Fox News Channel didn't. Instead, Fox showed an interview with Karl Rove about demonstrations outside the convention, and a Bill O'Reilly-moderated segment about immigration.

Similarly, Fox did not air the convention speech by Pittsburgh Police Chief Cameron McLay about how it's possible to simultaneously address the needs of police and concerns by minority communities. Their network rivals did.

Since it was a discussion about a hot news issue, the omissions leave Fox vulnerable to charges that the network is reluctant to expose its Republican-dominated au-



AP
Sybrina Fulton, Geneva Reed-Veal, Lucy McBath, Gwen Carr, Cleopatra Pendleton, Maria Hamilton, Lezley McSpadden and Wanda Johnson from Mothers of the Movement speak during the second day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

dience to opinions they may disagree with. A Fox spokeswoman noted that Megyn Kelly had a later discussion about the segments on her show.

MOVING A CROWD: Fox News Channel's Chris Wallace and CNN's David Axelrod had identical observations to explain why they thought former President Bill Clinton's convention speech in support of his wife worked. Clinton, they said, is a master at turning a large auditorium into an intimate room. That's precisely the feeling you want to create, recognizing the most important audience is not in the auditorium, but watching

from their living rooms.

INSIDE LOOK: CNN's habit of larding its on-air staff with former associates of politicians has its weaknesses, but Tuesday it was illuminating to have former Bill Clinton aide Paul Begala available to talk about how his ex-boss prepares for a speech. "He's Southern to the core," Begala said. "You think he's taking a lazy trip down the river and at the end, he's told you the meaning of life."

SHOW BIZ: Donald Trump had his smoke-machine-aided convention entrance to Queen's "We Are the Champions." Hillary Clinton had her own show

biz moment Tuesday night. The Philadelphia arena's large screen flashed pictures of American presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama—all men—then Clinton appeared live via satellite after a special effect of glass shattering. The glass ceiling, remember? It's a reminder that modern conventions are entertainment spectacles as much as political meetings.

SANDERS' MOMENT: "There's more unity at this moment than there was a day ago," said Fox's Brit Hume after Bernie Sanders ended the roll call by proposing that Hillary Clinton be declared the nominee by acclamation. Maybe, but there was no missing Sanders' tight smile and quick escape off the convention floor. Fox floor reporter Bill Hemmer fruitlessly searched for Sanders.

STAR POWER: Appearances by the likes of Lena Dunham, Sarah Silverman, Meryl Streep, Alicia Keys, Banks, Paul Simon and America Ferrera during the first two days of the Democratic convention left some politicians star-struck. MSNBC's Nicolle Wallace injected a reality check: It's not exactly newsworthy when Hollywood stars turn out to support Democrats, she said.

Beyonce, Adele, Kanye West earn top nominations at MTV VMAs

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce and Adele are the top nominees at the MTV Video Music Awards, where their music videos will compete against Kanye West's controversial "Famous" for video of the year.

"Famous," Beyonce's "Formation" and Adele's "Hello" will battle Justin Bieber's "Sorry" and Drake's "Hotline Bling" for the top prize when the VMAs air live Aug. 28 from New York's Madison

Square Garden. The nominations were announced Tuesday.

West's infamous "Famous" features what appears to be naked images of the rapper and other celebrities, including Taylor Swift, Kim Kardashian, Donald Trump and Bill Cosby. The song is at the center of his current war with Swift: Kardashian recently leaked audio of Swift giving West her blessing after he told her the lyric, "I feel like



AP
In this June 26, 2016 file photo, Beyonce performs 'Freedom' at the BET Awards in Los Angeles.

Singer Joy Williams gets acting bug after Showtime role

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Ex-Civil Wars singer Joy Williams doesn't want to be that cliché of a musician-turned-actor, but after getting her first role in the Showtime series "Roadies," she admits she's got the acting bug.

"I am learning there is the cliché for a reason 'cause there is a lot of overlap," she said in an interview last week at her home in Nashville, Tennessee. "I am still really committed to making music, but if the right role came up again, I totally caught the bug."

Williams probably couldn't have picked a better show to dip her toes in the water. Created by Cameron Crowe, "Roadies" pulls back the curtains on the motley crew of a major touring rock band, an experience that Williams knows a bit about after spending years on the road performing in the Grammy-winning Civil Wars duo with John Paul White.

"You become this strange patchwork quilt family when you're on the road," Williams said.

Williams and Crowe met on Twitter, then developed a friendship after she and her family moved to Venice Beach, California. Alongside lead actors Luke Wilson and Carla Gugino, "Roadies"—which airs Sundays—includes cameos from other real musicians like Lindsey Buckingham, My Morning Jacket's Jim James and the Head and the Heart. But Williams said Crowe wanted her to audition for a non-musical role.

Williams plays Janine, the ex-girlfriend of the band's lead singer. She said she can relate to the character "trying to find her own voice and trying to stand up for herself."

After the Civil Wars formally announced their breakup in 2014, Williams said she went on a journey to rediscover her voice as a solo artist. She released "Venus" in 2015 and threw fans for a loop by recording an album full of electronic-based music, a departure from the country folk music that marked her work in the Civil Wars.

me and Taylor might still have sex." But Swift later said she was upset because West did not play her the entire track or tell her the full lyric regarding her, which included the line, "Why? I made that bitch famous."

Beyonce, though, is the overall VMA leader with 11 nominations—marking a career best for the pop diva, who released her Emmy-nominated "Lemonade" visual album this year. Adele is behind her

with eight nominations.

The songstresses will compete for best female video along with Rihanna, Sia and Ariana Grande.

West is nominated for best male video against Drake, the

HBO didn't renew 'Project Greenlight,' Damon says

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Project Greenlight" won't be getting a fifth season on HBO.

Matt Damon told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he was shocked that HBO didn't pick up his and Ben Affleck's show, which chronicles the production of an independent film.

"I really liked it and thought that the show went great," Damon said while promoting the latest "Jason Bourne" film. "I'm not one to question (their programming). They do such a great job. But we have to take it out again."

Damon said that that they'll start shopping the show around, and he thinks that a streaming service like Amazon or Netflix might be a good fit.

"There are places where I

think we could do really well," he said.

"Project Greenlight" aired on HBO for its first two seasons from 2001 to 2003, before moving to Bravo for season three in 2005. The show came back to HBO for a fourth season last year to much buzz and some controversy starting with Damon's comments regarding diversity, for which he later apologized.

The show this past season, which was centered on the production of director Jason Mann's dark parlor comedy "The Leisure Class," became a cultural touchpoint.

Even in production, it already seemed like a relic of a different era, with its white male director focusing on wealthy, mainly white char-



AP
In this July 21, 2016, photo, singer Joy Williams poses in Nashville, Tenn. Williams, former member of the Civil Wars, has a recurring role in the Showtime series "Roadies," about the touring crew of a major rock band.

acters at a time when diversity and representation in film were in the spotlight more than ever. Producer Effie Brown became a breakout star of the

season, providing fascinating insight and commentary week to week on those issues while also overseeing the production of the film.

Sweet man sours marriage by calling his wife fat

DEAR ABBY: I am a large, overweight woman. I have been in the process of losing weight for more than five years. I got married three years ago to an amazing guy. He's the sweetest man I have ever met.

Something he said recently really bothers me. He said he thinks I'm fat. While I know I'm fat—and admit it out loud—I never thought it was appropriate for your significant other to say it to you.

I am at a loss as to what to do because he is right, but it hurts my feelings that he not only thinks it but says it. I have tried talking to him about how it makes me feel, but he just shrugs his shoulders. He sees nothing wrong with calling me fat. What do you think?

BIG GIRL IN CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

DEAR BIG GIRL: If you call yourself fat, then it's possible your husband didn't think his doing so would hurt your feelings. Straighten him out. And when you do, tell him what other terms you would prefer he use (i.e., "big and beautiful," "bountiful and bodacious," etc.).

Point out that whether it is a large or small amount, getting weight off is difficult. Also, it's not unusual for people who are hurting to eat more in order to compensate. He married you when you were heavier, so he should be aware

not only that you're making progress, but also that you need his support.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 30 and have lived with my boyfriend, "Shane," for two years. We spend lots of time together, our families socialize and we have a good relationship. My problem is Shane's use of social media. He takes a lot of pictures and posts them online while we're together, but I am never in them and he never mentions that I'm there.

Example: We took trips to Las Vegas, New York and Jamaica. He posted dozens of pictures of himself, but none of us together. When we go to nice restaurants, he shoots pictures of the food and solo selfies, but never mentions that I'm there, too. He has female friends I have never met who comment on all his fabulous adventures.

It appears to me that Shane has created an online image as an exciting, jet-setting single guy. But when I say that, he tells me I am being "immature." I am considering ending the relationship because of this. What do you think?

OUT OF THE PICTURE

DEAR OUT OF THE PICTURE: When a couple has been living together for two years and spends the majority of their time together, their friends usually know they are involved. That Shane has cultivated an image of himself

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

online as fancy-free seems strange to me, too. It may be that he is self-centered, or that he's not as committed to your relationship as you would like him to be.

When you tell a person something bothers you, and that person not only doesn't do something about it but blames you, it's a red flag. But if everything else in the relationship is as fine as you say, it doesn't have to be a deal-breaker. I assume you have a social media presence of your own. I suggest that you fill it with lots of pictures of Shane, the two of you together and the places you're going together.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

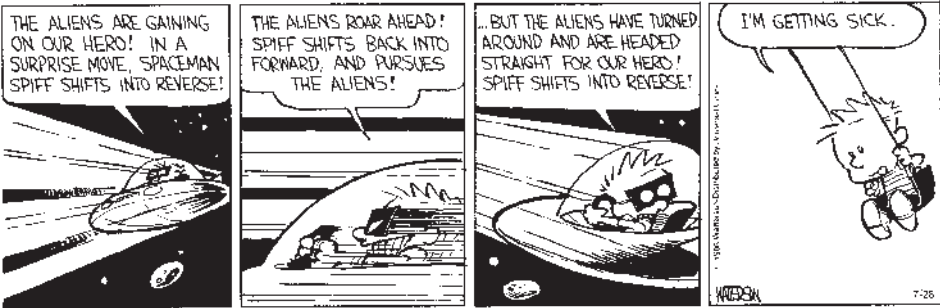
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

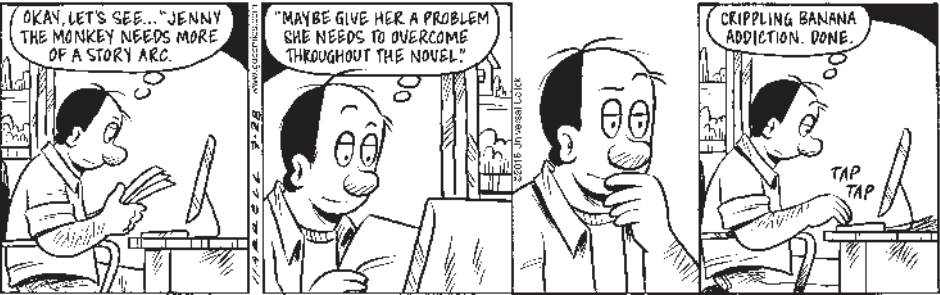


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Be sick night

4 Exile isle music?

8 "Phooey!" 50 — canto

12 Pair 51 New York

13 Entre — canal

14 Vacillate 52 Last-

15 Summer ing 12

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27 Spider's

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29 Cowboy

Cassidy

30 Paradise

31 Fury

33 Vodka

cocktails

35 Fan's cry

38 PBS

funder

40 Exagger-

ated

43 Chasm

45 Actor

Gibson

46 Castor's

mother

47 Russian

river

48 Biogra-

phy

49 "Amen!"

53 Exist

54 "Platoon"

locale

55 Transcript

no.

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lori Loughlin, 52; Sally Struthers, 69; Jim Davis, 71, Peter Cullen, 75.

Happy Birthday: Look at the big picture. If you are too rigid, you will miss out on an opportunity. Redesign your plans to fit the current economic climate. You can find ways to make your money stretch and additional sources of income if you are willing to try something new. Learn as you go and good things will happen. Your numbers are 5, 17, 22, 24, 33, 35, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get back to the people and things you enjoy most in life. Express your ideas and concerns. Solutions can be found and changes made to improve your position, looks and relationships with others. Make friendship a priority. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Apply for a new position or express your desire to help others. Expanding your interests or knowledge will increase your chances of developing a worthwhile partnership with someone you encounter. Rely on your past experience and do things differently. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A chance to do something constructive with someone you enjoy working with will do you good. Avoid anyone who tries to coax you into something that isn't healthy. Finding the right people to work with will be crucial to your success. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get involved in something you've never done before and it will broaden your awareness

of the possibilities around you. You can't achieve anything unless you take risks. Put some energy behind your dreams, hopes and wishes. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refrain from confronting an emotional situation until you get the proper insight. Put an emphasis on making personal plans and physical or mental improvements that will put you in a better position to advance in your field. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you are passionate about your goals and plans, your chances of finding success will be improved. It's up to you to make things happen and to instigate the opportunities to improve your life. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Consider suggestions, but don't give in to someone who is pushing you to do unreasonable things. There is a fine line between wanting to please and being taken advantage of. Do your best to balance relationships fairly. You can't buy love. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Jealousy is best avoided. Whether it's you or someone else who is feeling insecure, it's best to stick to the projects and people that do not get you all riled up. Making a snap decision could end in regret. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Uncertainty will hold you back. If you overreact, you will end up standing still. Make personal improvements that will help you achieve a more confident attitude. If you feel good, it will be easier to make a satisfying decision. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get involved in something you've never done before. The experience will be valuable and could prevent you from making a costly mistake. A small adjustment will help you avoid a big disaster. Be proactive. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional energy will be your downfall if you express your feelings without thinking. Take a realistic approach to how you handle partners, colleagues and those who can influence your future. Romance and helping others is favored. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take action, get moving and turn your ideas into something constructive. Talk is cheap, but actions will show others that you mean business. Ignore criticism and emotional blackmail. Believe in your ability to get things done. **

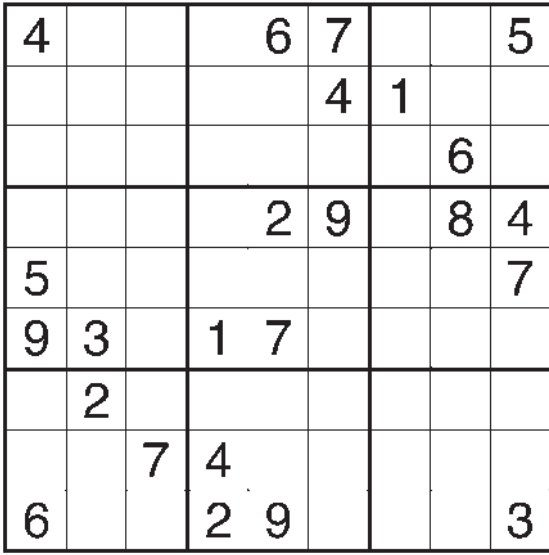
Birthday Baby: You are precise, detailed and dedicated. You are confident and adaptable.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

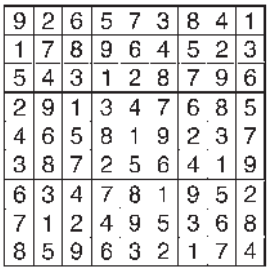


Difficulty Level ★★

7/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level: ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BEATBOXING: Solution: 10 letters



© 2016 Universal Press. Download the Wonderword Game App! 7/28

Air, Arts, Band, Bass, Battle, Beat, Bell, Blues, Clapping, Crab, Cymbal, Doug, Drums, Dubstep, Feel, Fresh, Guitar, Hip Hop, Hokum, Horn, Human, Inhale, Instruments, Inward, Lips, Machine, Microphone, Mix, Mouth, Musical, Practice, Rhythm, Robot, Siren, Sound, Stomp, Team, Throat, Tone, Tongue, Trombone, Trumpet, Vocal, Whistle, Wobble, Wobwob, Zede

Yesterday's Answer: Flavorful
To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

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Pro se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:) FCD GU) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 16-0356
WKDLCL, WDLCL, Jr., WVDLCL, RTL, ZTTL Minor Children) NOTICE OF HEARING
By:)
Donald L. and Vicki M. Allgood)
Petitioners)

Notice is hereby given that the
above-entitled matter is set for a hearing
on August 4, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. in
Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge
Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2016.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

EMPLOYMENT

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Federer to miss rest of season, including Olympics, US Open

SWITZERLAND (AP)—Roger Federer is sitting out the rest of this season, including the Rio de Janeiro Olympics and U.S. Open, to protect his surgically repaired left knee.

Federer wrote on his Facebook page Tuesday that he needs “more extensive rehabilitation following my knee surgery earlier this year.”

“The doctors advised that if I want to play on the ATP World Tour injury free for another few years, as I intend to do, I must give both my knee and body the proper time to fully recover,” Federer said.

The owner of a record 17 Grand Slams titles turns 35 on Aug. 8, so the reference to “another few years” might give his fans increased hope of seeing Federer continue to wield a racket for quite some time.

His agent, Tony Godsick, wrote in an email to The Associated Press that Federer’s plan is to “be ready for the start of next year.”

Federer is the first member of tennis’ so-called “Big 4”—Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, and 2012 gold medalist Andy Murray—to pull out of the Rio Games, where that sport’s competition starts on Aug. 6, a day after the opening ceremony.

Federer often has spoken about how much the Olympics mean to him, in part because he met his wife, Mirka, when both were athletes at the 2000 Sydney Games. Federer won a silver medal in singles for Switzerland four years ago in London, and he teamed up



AP
In this July 8, 2016, file photo, Roger Federer of Switzerland returns to Milos Raonic of Canada during their men’s semifinal singles match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London.

with Stan Wawrinka to win a gold medal in doubles at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

In Brazil, Federer was expected to play singles, doubles with Wawrinka, and mixed doubles with Martina Hingis.

He is the second big draw who will be missing from the Rio tennis tournament: Five-time major champion Maria Sharapova won’t be there because she is serving a two-year doping ban.

The arthroscopic procedure Federer had on his knee

in February, repairing torn cartilage, was the first operation of his lengthy and accomplished career. Federer said he got hurt while preparing a bath for his twin daughters.

He’s also had back issues this season, missed the French Open to end his record 65-appearance streak at major tournaments, and did not win a title of any sort in 2016 - making it the first year since 2000 that he will finish

without at least one trophy.

So after participating in every single Grand Slam tournament from the 2000 Australian Open through the 2016 Australian Open, Federer will be sitting out two of the last three this year. He is a five-time champion at the U.S. Open and was the runner-up there to Djokovic last year.

Federer, who has spent more weeks at No. 1 than anyone in

the history of the ATP computerized rankings, currently sits at No. 3, having gone 21-7 this season. Depending on how other players fare, of course, Federer’s ranking will tumble over the course of the rest of the year.

He hasn’t played since losing to Milos Raonic in the Wimbledon semifinals early this month. Federer fell awkwardly during that match, winding up face-down on the Centre Court grass, and had a trainer come out to check on

his left knee afterward.

Federer said at the time he wasn’t sure how badly he might have been injured.

In his statement Tuesday, Federer wrote: “The silver lining is that this experience has made me realize how lucky I have been throughout my career with very few injuries.”

And he added: “I am as motivated as ever and plan to put all my energy towards coming back strong, healthy and in shape to play attacking tennis in 2017.”

MOSCOW (AP)—At least 105 athletes from the 387-strong Russian Olympic team announced last week have been barred from the Rio Games in connection with the country’s doping scandal.

International federations in canoeing, sailing and modern pentathlon ruled out eight on Tuesday, including an Olympic gold medalist. Rowing added 19 more athletes to three that had previously been announced. Swimming has also barred some athletes. Some appeals are likely.

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian media that Putin had discussed the doping issue with his national security council.

“The topic of the recent International Olympic Committee ruling relating to Russian athletes was raised ahead of Putin’s planned meeting tomorrow with the Russian Olympic team,” Peskov was quoted as saying.

The vast majority of the Russian athletes who miss out are in track and field, where 67 athletes were ruled out when a

At least 105 Russian athletes banned so far

ban on the Russian team was upheld at the Court of Arbitration for Sport last week.

More are falling foul of new rules imposed in the wake of the country’s doping scandal.

While Russia avoided a blanket ban from the International Olympic Committee, it has lost several medal contenders to new IOC rules imposed Sunday banning Russia from entering athletes who previously doped.

Alexander Dyachenko, an Olympic champion in 2012, was among five canoeists ruled out after being named in a recent report by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren alleging a state-sponsored doping cover-up.

McLaren’s report last week specifically detailed how Russian state officials allegedly intervened to cover up hundreds of failed drug tests.

Dyachenko won gold in the men’s double kayak 200 meters at the 2012 London Games.

“The ICF will continue its strong zero-tolerance stance and remove all athletes that contravene its rules in any way,” said Simon Toulson, the International Canoe Federation’s general secretary. “If you step out of line you won’t make the start line.”

The four other banned canoeists are Alexei Korovashkov—a 2012 bronze medalist in the C2 1,000 meters event—Andrei Kraitor, Elena Anyushina and Nataliya Podolskaya.

The ICF also said that Russia would not be allowed to enter boats in four events in which the excluded athletes would have raced. Therefore, Austria, Germany, Sweden and Iran are in line to receive their places.

World Sailing said Pavel Sozykin, who had been due to race in the 470 class, would be excluded because he was mentioned in the McLaren report. Russia’s other six sailors were

approve and Russia is able to nominate a replacement for Sozykin, the federation said.

Meanwhile, the International Modern Pentathlon Union named the two Russians it had suspended as Maxim Kustov and Ilya Frolov, saying they both featured in the McLaren report. Kustov’s place in the men’s event passes to a Latvian athlete, while Frolov had only been entered for Rio as a reserve.

There are now a total of 22 Russian rowers who

have been excluded. They include Ivan Podshivalov and Anastasia Karabelshchikova, who were excluded because they previously served doping bans, while Ivan Balandin from Russia’s men’s eight was implicated in the McLaren report, World Rowing said. The others, according to a release Tuesday, did not meet standards set by the IOC.

Meanwhile, volleyball player Alexander Markin

told local media he had been dropped due to a positive test earlier this year for the banned substance meldonium, even though he had not been banned. The international volleyball federation did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The head of the Russian Wrestling Federation told the R-Sport agency that two-time world champion Viktor Lebedev was ineligible because he was given a doping ban in 2006.

On Monday, swimming’s world governing body FINA ruled out seven Russians including reigning world 100m breaststroke champion Yulia Efimova.

Legal challenges are looming.

Efimova’s agent has said he is preparing an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and the Russian Canoe Federation’s general secretary Irina Sirayeva said that the five banned athletes could follow suit.

“The intention to defend

the athletes is there,” she told R-Sport.

Triple jumper Ekaterina Koneva—a former world championship silver medalist—told local media she was considering a lawsuit in civil court.

There was good news for Russia as its judo and shooting teams—comprised 11 and 18 athletes respectively—received approval to compete from their sports’ international governing bodies.

Also, Russia also looks set to field a full team of four players in Olympic badminton, the Russian Badminton Federation said Tuesday, citing assurances from the Badminton World Federation.

Previously, archery, tennis and equestrian sport’s world governing bodies said they had no objection to the Russians entered in their sports.

Lists of Russian athletes approved by international federations must still be approved by CAS arbiters who can reject athletes not tested outside Russia.

The IOC refused to accept testing done by Russian agencies because of evidence that the process was corrupted

Indians rally for 3 in 9th to stun Nationals



CLEVELAND
(AP)—Fran-

cisco Lindor pushed an RBI single through Washington's drawn-in infield with one out in the ninth inning, and the Cleveland Indians rallied for three runs in their final at-bat to stun the Washington Nationals 7-6 on Tuesday night in a matchup of first-place teams with sights on October.

Down two runs and three outs from their losing streak reaching a season-high four games, the Indians rallied against closer Jonathan Papelbon (2-4), who did not get an out before he was pulled by manager Dusty Baker.

With the bases loaded, Lindor fisted his base hit into right field and danced his way up the first-base line as the Indians celebrated an improbable victory.

Bryan Shaw (2-4) got two outs in the ninth and picked up the win as Cleveland won its first home game since July 10.

Anthony Rendon hit a two-run homer and Wilson Ramos added a solo shot for the NL East-leading Nationals, just 4-6 since the All-Star break.

Cardinals 3, Mets 2 Mets 3, Cardinals 1

In New York, Bartolo Colon pitched three-hit ball for seven sharp innings and New York overcame another home run by Jedd Gyorko to beat St. Louis for a doubleheader split.

Gyorko homered in both ends and has connected seven times in nine games. His two-run shot helped the Cardinals win the opener 3-2.

Colon (9-5) struck out eight and walked none. After Gyorko homered in the second and Alberto Rosario doubled in the third, Colon set down 14 of his final 15 batters.

Blue Jays 7, Padres 6, 12 innings

In Toronto, Devon Travis scored the winning run on a wild pitch, and Toronto rallied for three runs in the 12th inning to beat San Diego.

Matt Kemp put the Padres in front with a two-run homer off Jesse Chavez (1-2) in the top of the 12th, but San Diego's bullpen couldn't hold the lead.

Travis drew a 14-pitch walk to load the bases, bringing Paul Clemens on in relief of Carlos Villanueva (1-2). Clemens walked Jose Bautista to make it 6-5 before Josh Donaldson tied it with a fielder's choice grounder.

Yankees 6, Astros 3

In Houston, CC Sabathia allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings to get back on track after a tough stretch and help New York over Houston.

Sabathia (6-8) allowed four



hits and struck out five to pick up his first win since June 16 after going 0-4 and allowing 31 runs—29 earned—combined in his past six starts.

Sabathia allowed a solo home run to Marwin Gonzalez in the first inning. But the big lefty settled in after that, allowing only one single over the next five innings.

White Sox 3, Cubs 0

In Chicago, James Shields allowed four singles in 7 2/3 innings, Adam Eaton homered and the White Sox stayed unbeaten since Chris Sale's suspension.

The Cubs lost their second straight and never got to use new closer Aroldis Chapman hours after he joined the team and struggled answering questions related to an altercation last year with his girlfriend.

Shields (5-12) struck out five and continued an impressive turnaround from a terrible first three starts after being acquired from San Diego last month.

Rockies 6, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Carlos Gonzalez and Trevor Story had two RBI apiece in a four-run third inning, and Colorado beat Chris Tillman to end Baltimore's five-game winning streak.

Seeking to become the first 15-game winner in the majors, Tillman (14-3) gave up six runs and nine hits in five innings.

Adam Jones homered for the Orioles, who were 21-4 at home since the beginning of June. Despite the loss, Baltimore still owns the AL's best record.

Tigers 9, Red Sox 8

In Boston, Miguel Cabrera

hit a two-run home run, Jarrod Saltalamacchia and Tyler Collins each had a pair of RBI and Detroit Tigers roughed up knuckleballer Steven Wright to beat Boston.

Detroit and Boston combined for 22 hits. Alex Wilson (1-0) got the victory, and Francisco Rodriguez closed for his 29th save.

David Ortiz had a three-run home run, but Boston's offense didn't have enough to offset a rare poor outing by Wright, who gave up nine hits and eight runs over

4 2/3 innings.

Angels 13, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Tyler Skaggs pitched seven innings in his first big league start in two years and Yunel Escobar went 5 for 5 to help the Angels to the runaway win.

Kole Calhoun drove in four runs and Carlos Perez had four hits, including a home run. Mike Trout drove in three runs, and Johnny Giavotella had three hits, including two doubles, and scored three runs.

Escobar matched a career

high for hits and the Angels collected 22 overall, equaling their season best.

Mariners 7, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Seattle ace Felix Hernandez settled down after a shaky start and picked up his first victory in more than two months.

Hernandez (5-4) gave up four runs in six innings in his first win since May 21. Steve Cishek worked a perfect ninth for his 24th save.

Kyle Seager's three hits for Seattle included his 20th home

run, and Franklin Gutierrez added his 10th off Francisco Liriano (6-10).

Marlins 5, Phillies 0

In Miami, Tom Koehler pitched six innings of three-hit ball, helping Miami to the win.

Ichiro Suzuki made his first start in five games and went 1 for 5, giving him 2,997 career hits. He also stole a base and scored a run.

Giancarlo Stanton and Adely Hechavarria each drove in two runs for the Marlins, who were shut out in their previous two games.

Braves 2, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Lucas Harrell pitched six innings, Adonis Garcia homered and the Braves beat the Twins in a matchup of the worst teams in the majors.

This untimely meeting came nearly 25 years after the Twins beat the Braves in a World Series that's often been mentioned among the most dramatic in history. The 1991 anniversary celebration was marked by Gene Larkin, who had the winning hit in the 10th inning of Game 7, throwing the ceremonial first pitch.

Mickelson not close to being over runner-up in British Open

SPRINGFIELD, N.J.

(AP)—If you thought two weeks was enough time for Phil Mickelson to get over his second-place finish in the British Open duel with Henrik Stenson, guess again.

Lefty said it's going to take a long time to get over the British Open, probably longer than any of his other excruciating losses in a major.

The hurt and disappointment wasn't because Mickelson missed out on either his sixth major or his first win since the 2013 British Open. This was the first time the 46-year-old Mickelson played his best, and it wasn't good enough.

The 40-year-old Stenson won his first major with a record-shattering 20-under total. Mickelson's 267 final total would have won every previous British Open except in 1993, when Greg Norman shot 267 at Royal St. George's.

"I think it's one of those things where I'll look back

over time and my disappointment will probably increase, because I think it's the first time in my career that I have played to that level of golf and not had it be enough to win a tournament," Mickelson said at a practice to prepare for the PGA Championship at Baltusrol Golf Club. "That's a disappointing thing because I would have loved to have added another claret jug."

Jordan Spieth, who played a practice round with Mickelson on Tuesday, walked over to his playing partner Tuesday and told him it was fun to watch him, and that he was unlucky not to win.

"And that's when he said, 'Hey, I've been on that side of things (lately), Masters in '15, and Troon even more so two weeks ago,' Spieth said. 'But then he's seen himself on the other side of things where no one is running away with it and he wins in

a close battle or he wins by a lot, whether it's in a major or regular tour event."

Mickelson believes he will win again. He feels his game is improving, his swing is back and he likes the course. He validated his first major—the 2004 Masters—by capturing the 2005 PGA here with a 72nd hole birdie.

His goal this week is to play as well as he did at Troon.

"I don't believe that there is a small window," Mickelson said of winning again. "I think there's a really big window of opportunity to add to my resume, to continue to compete in big events, for the simple reason that the feel and sensitivity of hitting shots; the ability to play golf courses a certain way, to visualize, to make birdies, to pull shots off, that has not diminished."

Mickelson said the key at Baltusrol is to drive the ball straight and putt well

on greens that have a lot of contours.

"There's a lot of little rolls and knolls," said Mickelson, noting the greens are going to roll a lot faster than Troon. "You can see multiple lines and only one of them is correct, and it's sometimes hard to see."

What many people would like to see would be another Mickelson-Stenson showdown.

Stenson said he has not had a chance to talk with Mickelson since the British Open.

"It's one of those things, it doesn't really strike you when you're in the middle of it," Stenson said "But afterward, with the 63 and the 20-under and the way we played, we pushed each other to the limit, both of us, for 36 holes more or less, and trading punches and blows all the way around the golf course for two days. That certainly is what made us play so well. We both wanted it badly and we performed so well because of each other."



Durant shines in first game at new home arena

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Oh yeah, Kevin Durant fully planned on putting up the initial shot for the U.S. as he played his first game at Oracle Arena since joining the Golden State Warriors.

Kyrie Irving promised to get the ball in his hands to do so, too.

Cheered all night long by his basketball-crazed new fan base, Durant knocked down a 3-pointer on the Americans' first touch and slammed home a dunk the very next time down the floor.

Then, another pretty one-handed jam just a few minutes after that. He scored the first 10 points for the United States.

What a performance for Golden State's newest big star to help lead the U.S. Olympic team past China 107-57 on Tuesday night for a third

dominant victory in as many exhibition games.

"It was amazing. The atmosphere was great, energy was great. The fans showed me major love, so I appreciate that," he said. "It was good to get out there in front of them and play well."

Durant, who finalized his two-year contract with the Warriors on July 8, scored all 13 of his points during a 13½-minute span of the first half while playing his first game at his new home, Oracle Arena.

He was the first American player back on the floor after halftime to get in some more shots, all while Warriors general manager Bob Myers stood close by along the sideline.

Booed in Los Angeles a couple days back, Durant received a far friendlier reception



United States' Kevin Durant, left, and China's Ding Yanyuhang reach for a rebound during the first half of an exhibition basketball game Tuesday, July 26, 2016, in Oakland, Calif.

in the Bay Area he will now call home. He emerged for pregame warmups to huge roars. He departed the court before the game to a swarm of autograph hounds hanging over the railings in the tunnel - and kindly obliged. One person held a sign that read, "KD is not a Villain."

"Certainly you wouldn't want to be introduced after KD in line," said coach Mike Krzyzewski, noting Durant's big defensive strides. "The crowd, the welcoming for Kevin was fantastic. I know he appreciated it very much."

Durant received a rousing

standing ovation when introduced along with Warriors All-Stars Draymond Green and Klay Thompson.

Also cheered was former Golden State forward Harrison Barnes, part of this past season's runner-up team that squandered a 3-1 series lead to the Cleveland Cavaliers to miss out on a repeat title.

The sellout crowd went nuts again when Durant checked back into the game at the 2:32 mark of the third quarter.

"I didn't lose sleep over today. I just wanted to be myself. ... I knew I was going to pull the first shot since like yesterday. Luckily it went in," he said. "I'm not going to lie, it felt a little weird for these fans to be cheering me on like that obviously being somewhere for so long and then making a change."

Amare Stoudemire retires from NBA

NEW YORK (AP)—Amare Stoudemire's greatest NBA success was in Phoenix, where as Steve Nash's pick-and-roll partner he was one of the NBA's most fearsome finishers.

But he chose to leave the league as a member of the Knicks, the franchise that was mired in a lengthy playoff drought before he signed in 2010 and revitalized the franchise.

Stoudemire retired Tuesday after signing a contract with the Knicks with much less fanfare than the \$100 million deal he inked six years ago to halt the team's downward spiral.

"Although my career has taken me to other places around the country, my heart

had always remained in the Big Apple," he said in a statement. "Once a Knick, Always a Knick."

Stoudemire was a six-time All-Star, but battled knee injuries after his sensational first season in New York, when he became the first Knicks player to be voted an All-Star starter since Patrick Ewing in 1997.

Still just 33 years old but with knees that hadn't been healthy in years, the 6-foot-10 forward asked team president Phil Jackson and general manager Steve Mills to add another signing to the ones they hope will lead to the first playoff berth since Stoudemire left.

"I came to New York in 2010 to help revitalize this franchise and we did just that," Stoudemire said. "Carmelo

(Anthony), Phil and Steve have continued this quest, and with this year's acquisitions, the team looks playoff-bound once again."

Madison Square Garden was energized again as Stoudemire rewrote the Knicks' record book during his first season, breaking Willie Naulls' 48-year-old franchise record by scoring 30 or more points in nine straight games.

With Carmelo Anthony arriving by trade midway through that 2010-11 season, the Knicks made the playoffs for the first time since 2004. Stoudemire remained with the team until midway through the 2014-15 season, always a popular player even after injuries forced him into a diminished role.

BEARS

From Page 28

to-head) among the three will get the third Final Four ticket, while the two remaining squads will duke it out for the fourth and last semis slot. A Titanium loss will automatically give the BSI Aces and the Falcons the semis seats.

The BSI Aces missed on their bid to move into the semis outright and join the top-seeded Bears and the defending champions GSM Brewers to the playoffs, no thanks to Jose Lizama Jr. and the pennant champions defense in the last inning.

Jose Lizama, who was on his first at bat as he worked the mound in the first six innings, made the go-ahead hit at the bottom of the eighth where the Bears scored two runs to boost their chances for a perfect record in the regular season. The Bears came into

the eighth down, 3-4. Marvin Kaipat then tied the match as his single drove Jerome Delos Santos home with only one out.

Kaipat, after his RBI single, moved to second and third off the BSI Aces' errors and later made it home off Jose Lizama Jr.'s base hit to put the Bears on top. The Bears next two batters went down on a fly out to second and strikeout, giving the BSI Aces the chance to regain the upper hand at the top of the ninth.

However, the BSI Aces seemed headed for a failure, as Bears closer A.J. Lizama started the inning with a strikeout on Luis Iguel. Virgil Secharmidal was next at bat and walked, but went down later along with Juan Iguel off a double play at second and first.

The Bears had to rally in the eighth to save their perfect season after losing an early lead. Kaipat and Henry Liza-

ma gave the pennant champions the 2-0 lead after scoring in the second inning off the BSI Aces' miscues. The Bears clung to the shaky lead until the fifth inning before siblings Juan and Lamarc Iguel also reached off the former's errors at the top of the sixth to force the deadlock.

The Bears failed to counter at the bottom sixth, but regained the upper hand at the bottom of the seventh when Henry Lizama reached off the BSI Aces' booby. However, tables turned quickly at the top of the eighth as Lamarc Iguel and Ben Jones' runs off another Bears' errors put the BSI Aces ahead, 4-3.

The seesaw battle continued at the bottom of the eighth as this time the Bears got earned runs off Kaipat and Lizama's hits and the pennant champions hung on tight in the last inning with their big defensive stops for the perfect run in the regular season.

KANOA

From Page 28

to outgun the entire Mambas crew. Matt scored 26 points, while Schmidt added 25. Ernest Duenas and Rodney Sacramento also hit double figures in Kanoa's eighth lopsided win in as many games, chipping in 18 and 11, respectively.

Youth player Djay Ong was the lone twin-digit scorer for Mambas, making 10. Mambas was still in the match at the end of the first half, facing a 16-point deficit, but lost it completely in the second as Kanoa's gunners drilled shots everywhere.

In the second match, Lower Base built a double-digit spread in the first half, 27-17, and withstood POI's rally in the final frame to escape with the 6-point win.

Ariel Jinang paced the winning squad with his 10 points

and drew enough support from his teammates, as six other Lower Base players contributed at least 4 points each. Ramsa Tenepere also had 10 points for POI.

In the third game, Fiesta pulled away in the final part of the second half for the 15-point winning margin.

The defending champion was on top by only three at the break, 29-26, but gained a sizeable lead midway in the second half behind its balance scoring. Five Fiesta players converted at least two baskets apiece in the final half to beat Shirley's, which had only four players scoring in the entire match.

First Game

Kanoa 92— M. Duenas 26, Schmidt 25, E. Duenas 18, Sacramento 11, Pablo 8.

Mambas 38— D. Ong 10, Raho 9, De La Torre 6, Raba-

go 5, Calibo 4, J. Ong 4.

Scoring by halves: 35-19, 92-38.

Second Game

Lower Base 53— Jinang 10, Bazinero 9, W. Benavente 6, Fujihara 6, Echavez 5, Cruz 5, Alegre 4, J. Benavente 2, Camu 2, Omar 2.

POI 47— Tenepere 10, Arago 8, Ramos 6, Villaluna 6, Santos 5, Palacios 4, Mendiola 4, Yu 2.

Scoring by halves: 27-17, 53-47.

Third Game

Fiesta 69— Matsutaro 18, Esdrelon 14, Quizon 9, Macoto 8, Rivera 6, Sedillo 6, Nonato 4, Villamena 4.

Shirley's 54— Jugos 20, Pollisco 13, Dela Rosa 12, Catungal 9.

Scoring by halves: 29-26, 69-54.

CNMI

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to finish and committed less fouls (7) so they really did well today," Ajoste added.

The Commonwealth cagers had a jackrabbit start against Belau, the host's second team in the tournament, as the visiting squad took a 38-14 advantage at the end of the first quarter. Lefty Jethro Cruz anchored the CNMI's impressive run in the opening 10 minutes of play, knocking in 11 points, including 9 straight midway in that period.

Cruz slowed down a bit in the second canto, hitting only two field goals, but his teammates picked up the scoring, widening the gap to 38 at half-time, 63-25.

It was all over, but the score in the second half, as the CNMI was unstoppable on offense with almost all

of its players finding a way to hit their shots, while Belau had limited options. The home squad failed to make baskets in streaks against the CNMI's unforgiving defense, which resulted to the visiting team's 33 steals.

N-Nes Siech top-scored for the Commonwealth with his 22 points off his 11-for-14 field goal shooting, while five of his teammates also logged double figures. Jester Kintaro added 16 markers and had 8 rebounds, while Cruz finished with 15 points to go with his 7 rebounds, 3 assists, and 5 steals. Troy Ngirarois also tallied 15 markers and had the team's best 11 boards. Roberto Paragados Jr. and Jeffrey Castro were the other twin-digit scorers for the CNMI, contributing 10 each, while the former added 10 rebounds and latter posted 5 steals.

Only captain Jerry Ngi-

remiang hit double figures for Belau with his 16 points. Belau before bowing to the CNMI came from a 85-77 over Yap last Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, despite their convincing victories, Ajoste said there's no room for complacency.

"We can't underestimate any team because the ball is round and whoever makes lesser fouls and turnovers has the strong chance to win the championship," the assistant coach added.

CNMI 132— Siech 22, Kintaro 16, Cruz 15, Ngirarois 15, Paragados 10, Castro 10, Rios 8, Blake 8, Atan 7, Atalig 4, Sablan 4.

Belau 53— Ngiraremiang 16, Sungino 9, A. Kintoki 8, Ueki 6, Cavan 4, J. Kintoki 4, Emery 3, Edeluchel 3.

Scoring by quarters: 38-14, 63-25, 100-40, 132-53.

2016 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Shirley's Coffee Shop's Erick Dela Rosa loses his balance after getting a foul from Lower Base's Ariel Jinang during their game in the 2016 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Shirley's Coffee Shop's Ariel Drilon, second right, kicks the ball out as he is hounded by JP Mambas' Djay Ong, right, and Denmark Angeles, second left.



Fiesta Resort's Jerald Rivera drives baseline against Shirley's Coffee Shop's Erick Dela Rosa.



Pacific Oriental, Inc.'s Kyung Min Yu, left, and Kanoa Resort's Miko Usi, third left, battle for the rebound.



Fiesta Resort's Fradel Sedillo unloads a fastbreak layup.



Fiesta Resort's Jarett Matsutaro pulls up for a jumper in front of Shirley's Coffee Shop's Jerome Pollisco.



Pacific Oriental, Inc.'s Ferdie Arago, third left, is pressured by a Lower Base defender.



Pacific Oriental, Inc. defenders watch Kanoa Resort's Douglas Schmidt goes up for a reverse shot.

Federer to miss rest of season, including Olympics, US Open

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Indians rally for 3 in 9th to stun Nationals

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI routs Belau to keep streak



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A CNMI Junior Nationals player unloads a layup during a scrimmage at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last week. The Junior Nationals are in Palau and unbeaten in three games in the 2016 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Nationals continued their strong showing in the elimination round of the 2016 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament as they posted another lopsided win after pouncing on Belau, 132-53, yesterday morning at the Palau National Gymnasium in Koror.



The Commonwealth representatives, who had similar blowout victories over Guam (105, 75) and Yap, 101-74, automatically gained a playoff berth in the five-team tournament after earning their biggest winning margin so far in the regional competition. The CNMI will go for the elimination sweep tonight when it takes on fellow unbeaten Palau (2-0), which whipped Guam (0-2), 70-34, in last night's second game. A win over Palau will give the Preston Basa-coached CNMI the top seeding in the semifinals where they will face No. 4 finisher after the elimination.

"We have to prepare for our game against Palau tomorrow (today). We need to get the W

first before we worry about the playoffs," CNMI assistant coach Omar Ajoste told Saipan Tribune.

"Against Belau, our boys were aggressive from start

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Easy wins for Fiesta, Kanoa



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiesta Resort's Arjay Nonato loses the ball as he is sandwiched by Shirley's Coffee Shop's Jerome Pollisco, third right, and Erick Dela Rosa, right, during the second half of their game in the Tan Holdings caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kanoa Resort and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan kept their hold to the Top 2 spots in the team standings in the 2016 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League after cruising to victories last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Kanoa hammered JP Mambas in the first game, 92-38, while Fiesta outclassed Shirley's Coffee Shop, 69-54, in the final match last weekend. Kanoa now has an 8-0 mark to remain on top of the leader-

board, while not far behind is Fiesta with its 6-2 slate. Shirley's fell to an even 4-4 record for third place, while Mambas dropped to a 2-5 card for a share of fourth to fifth place with Lower Base, which defeated Pacific Oriental, Inc., 53-47, in last weekend's second match.

In the first game, Kanoa's offensive firepower proved too much for Mambas, as the former more than doubled the latter's output.

Matt Duenas and Douglas Schmidt's combined production alone was enough

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Bears earn perfect run in regular season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Bears finished the regular season of the 2016 Saipan Baseball League with an unblemished record following a tough 5-4 victory over the BSI Aces last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Bears capped the dou-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Bears' A.J. Lizama is at bat during the bottom of the third inning of their game against the BSI Aces in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ble-round robin elimination with a 14-0 mark, while the BSI Aces ended up with an 8-6 mark for the tie for third to fourth place with the Falcons.

With the Bears' victory, the Aces and the Falcons must wait for the results of the Titanium (7-6) and Yankees (4-9) tiff to determine their Final Four chances.

The Titanium-Yankees game was played last night and results were unavailable at press time. A Titanium win will create a three-way tie for the two remaining semis berths. In this case, the team with the best record (head-

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